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CALGARY • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009 metro

Sports pg 13

Danica brushes aside Formula One rumours

Woman in hospital after C-Train hits her

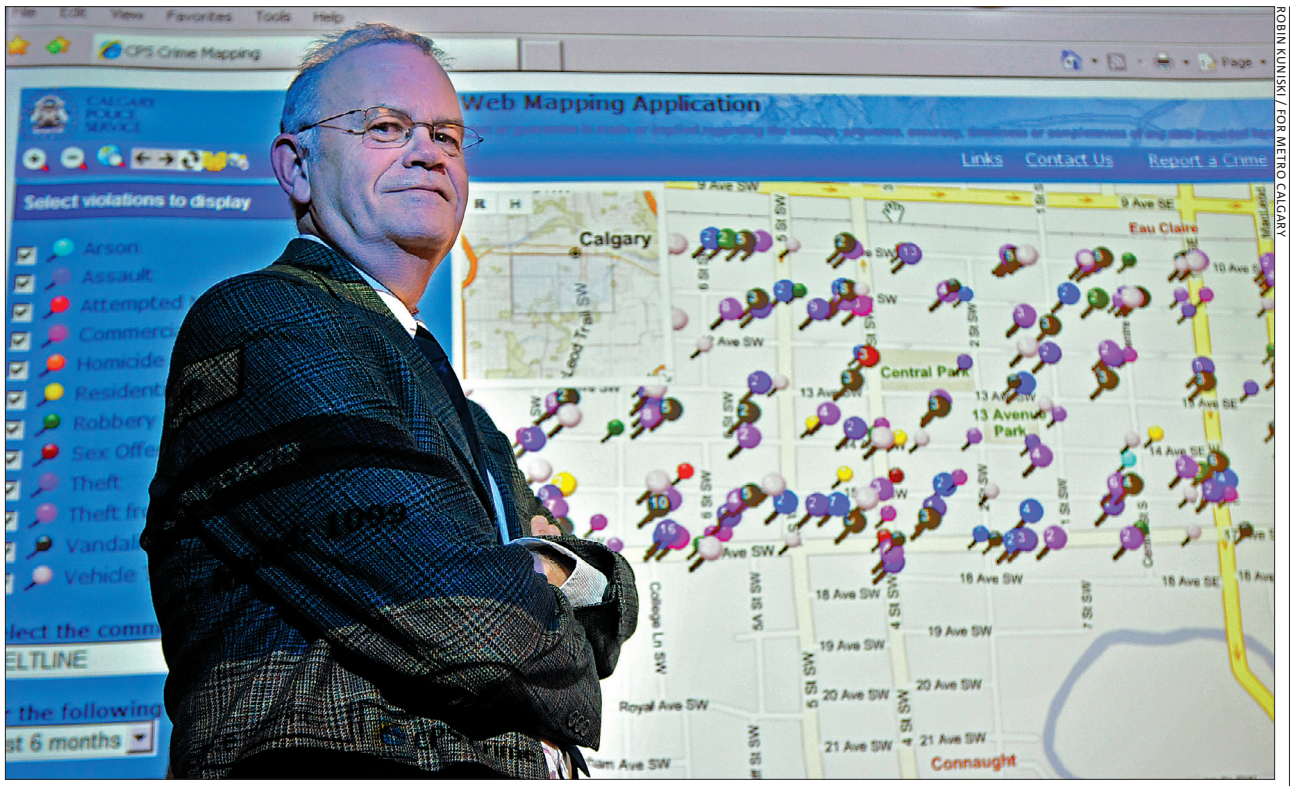
INJURY A 34-year-old woman was struck and critically injured by a C-Train at a northeast intersection early yesterday evening, according to Calgary police.

Emergency crews responded around 7:10 p.m. to 36 Street and Marlborough Drive NE after reports of the woman being hit by the southbound train while walking on the north side of the intersection with a male companion.

Paramedics treated and transported the woman to Foothills Medical Centre with life-threatening head injuries.

The male was not struck, nor was anyone on the C-Train injured.

METRO CALGARY



ROBIN KUNISKI / FOR METRO CALGARY

Bob Duke helped develop and launch the Calgary Police Service's interactive outlet to explore and chart crime in communities across the city. Calgarians can now discover the criminal incidents occurring in their community on the Internet.

Mapping out crime

Website allows citizens to monitor activity in the city

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

In an effort to provide citizens with an interactive tool to explore and chart crime in their neighbourhoods, police unveiled the new online Crime Mapping application yesterday.

"It allows Calgarians to monitor their community and we hope it will continue to engage the community with (police)," Supt. Katie McLellan said at the unveiling.

The public will be able to choose types of crimes and the area they would like to search and, after a few clicks, can have results displayed on an interactive map.

"Sometimes they may not be aware of the types of crime happening in their communities, and this will just help make them aware and able to watch for suspicious activity," McLellan said.

Bob Duke, who helped to develop the application, said the site is simple to use and has many other tools and options for people looking for more information.

"We think anyone who use map-type things before will really like this," he said.

One concern from the public is that the new website option will instil more fear into communities and citizens across the city, including Darren Dyrland, who lives in the heart of the Beltline, which has had 489 crimes in the past three months alone.

"No, I don't think it's useful and it will just scare people even more," Dyrland said.

"If we live here, we're already very aware about the types of crime and we don't need to be reminded." But McLellan said that is not the intention of the interactive map.

"We just want to help make people aware, this isn't to pit communities against one another or cause fear," she said.

The website will show the types and frequencies of crime, but police are careful not to give exact addresses or details about the victims. The tool can be accessed at www.calgarypolice.ca.

Search online

- Calgarians can search for arson, assault, attempted murder, commercial break-in, homicide, residential break-in, robbery, sex offence, theft, theft from vehicle, vandalism and vehicle theft offences at www.calgarypolice.ca.

Crowds flock to see Obama

Obama's**Visit**

OTTAWA David de Weerdt drove nearly six hours through the cold and then the snow yesterday to help bring a warm welcome to U.S. President Barack Obama on his first official visit to Canada.

"I'm not going because I expect to shake his hand or meet him personally or anything of that sort," de Weerdt said from his car yesterday as he drove to Ottawa from his home in Kitchener, Ont. "I really am just concerned that the world sees the real character of Canadians when he comes to visit."

De Weerdt, 47, said he had been planning for weeks to join the crowd hoping to catch a glimpse of the presidential motorcade — maybe even a wave from the man himself — as it speeds up Parliament Hill just before noon today.

Obama T-shirts, Obama specialty coffee beans and even an Obama burger heralded the president's imminent arrival as well-wishers planned rallies and police raised barricades yesterday.

Security will be tight around the city during the first official foreign visit Obama makes as president.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean will meet him at Ottawa International Airport around 10:30 a.m. after he arrives for a whirlwind visit to the capital. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

MORE COVERAGE, PGS 6, 9 & 12

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Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? For the next six weeks, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Food

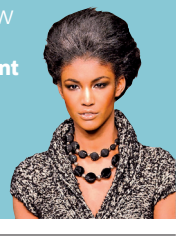
- **What local eatery will leave you feeling full and your wallet not feeling empty — it's Meals for a Steal, pg 16**

Beauty

- **A look at the bright side of a recession-addled New York Fashion Week, pg 18**

Tomorrow

- **How independent businesses are trying to attract new customers.**



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Program for young songwriters accepting applications online
The EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts in Calgary is inviting Alberta songwriters aged 15 to 19 to apply for the first Young Songwriters' Intensive Program. Those interested must apply by Feb. 25 at http://www.epcorcentre.org/ecmusicseries/alberta-learn.html. METRO CALGARY

Local

Roaring onto city stages

Broadway Across Canada has announced its new 2009-2010 season lineup and is excited to bring Disney's The Lion King, A Chorus Line and Fiddler on the Roof to Calgary in succession beginning in August and ending in January 2010. For more information, visit www.broadwayacrosscanada.ca.
METRO CALGARY

Province's plates to keep design

DRIVING There won't be new designs on Alberta licence plates anytime soon, the provincial government announced yesterday.

The province decided to add a fourth number to the plates instead since the current combinations will run out this summer.

More than 33,000 people participated in the consultation for a new slogan and design for the current plates, which have been used since 1983.

METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Homelessness experts say they have found a fix at **metronews.ca /local**

Video Obamamania washes over Ottawa at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries
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These results are not official.

City's billionth rider served

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

One billion served. No, it's not McDonald's – it's Calgary Transit.

The city and Calgary Transit celebrated a milestone yesterday as regular commuter Shelly Xiao was selected as the transit system's one-billionth rider since the light rail transit system began on May 25, 1981.

"I feel very honoured and excited that I am the billionth rider. I am a bit overwhelmed," she said during a ceremony at the 1st Street SW train platform.

Xiao told Metro she rides the train from Braeside everyday to her downtown job at Shaw, and she has no complaints about the service.

"I feel very satisfied with the system. They are very nice," she said, adding when asked that the only thing she would change is to have more trains during rush hour.

"I just feel very lucky."

While Xiao was showered with gifts like a limited edition model C-Train car and monthly transit passes for the rest of the year, the city was equally excited about the feat, as many curious onlookers congratulated the woman.

Fred Wong, Calgary Transit director, said while Xiao was the billionth customer, there are more than 280,000 riders per day in Calgary.

"We have the most popular C-Train in North America," Wong said. "We're looking forward to serving the community for the next 100 years."

ROBIN KUNISKI / FOR METRO CALGARY

Shelly Xiao, right, and Mayor Dave Bronconnier celebrated Calgary Transit's one-billionth rider milestone yesterday. Xiao, a randomly selected regular transit commuter, was presented with several commemorative gifts after she was chosen.

Report looks at signs for 'safety zones'

PLANNING Those familiar yellow signs marking playground or school zones in Calgary could be replaced by uniform "safety zone" signs.

Yesterday at council's land use committee meeting, Ald. Gord Lowe moved that a report be written about the implications of combining school and playground zones into one uniform "safety zone" that could include areas such as sports fields.

"It could be achieved quite easily," Lowe said, adding the proposed zones could have standardized hours such as 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Ald. Andre Chabot and Ald. John Mar opposed the motion. "If it's not broken, why fix it?" Mar said, adding that it would be "an enforcement nightmare."

The report is due back in September.

ALICIA FOX/ FOR METRO CALGARY

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Philanthropist donates $1M to Studio Theatre
A city entrepreneur and philanthropist has donated $1 million towards the renovation of the University of Calgary's Studio Theatre. Dick Matthews, 88, has previously given to the law, drama and music departments at the university. METRO CALGARY

Local journalist's legacy lives on

FOUNDATION Calgarian journalist Amber Bowerman — whose own dreams were cut short last year in a domestic homicide — is living on through her legacy.

The Amber Webb-Bowerman Memorial Foundation has finalized its first award: the $750 Student Writing Award through Western Magazine Awards.

Amber Bowerman

The recipient will exemplify the same passion and vigour that Bowerman portrayed in her own writing.

"Amber was an inspiration in our lives and we hope that through the foundation she continues to inspire people," said Chris Bowerman, Amber's husband and president of the AWBMF.

The foundation will finalize another five awards this week.

Colleen Seto, secretary of the foundation and close friend of Bowerman, said the woman genuinely wanted to help others excel.

ALICIA FOX/FOR METRO CALGARY

Memorial limit debated

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Calgary

Time-limits on roadside memorials might actually be healthy for those mourning the loss of a loved one.

Patrick Keelan, a registered psychologist with the Calgary Counselling Centre, said that having control over your personal grieving process assists in the ability to move on.

"In the initial stages, if these memorials are up, I think that's fine ... but as time goes on, if the memorials are up for an indefinite period, it might, for many people, get in the way of them taking steps towards adjusting to life without the person," Keelan said.

However, he cautions what works for one person might not work for another.

"Grieving (is) one of the most individual phenomenon out there," he said.

He said it could be considered a "tangible piece of evidence that you're not alone," though he might instead recommend having a private place such as a cemetery where one can choose to go to and remember the person rather than have a constant, public reminder.

ROBIN KUNISKI / FOR METRO CALGARY
A city committee approved a nine-month time limit for roadside memorials yesterday, and a Calgary psychologist says it's a good idea. Council will debate the issue next month.

Yesterday, the transportation committee gave the thumbs up to a nine-month time limit on the memorials.

Ald. Jim Stevenson said he supported it, saying there needs to be a time when they can be taken down without opposition, but Ald. Ray Jones disagreed.

"I just don't think (the memorials) are harming anybody," Jones said.

Council will debate the issue on March 9.

Two schools closing due to enrolment

LEARNING The Calgary Board of Education approved the closure of a school program at two schools due to the declining enrolment.

The board announced yesterday it would close the Integrated Occupational Program (IOP) at Lord Shaughnessy High School and the regular program at Sir John Franklin School.

METRO CALGARY

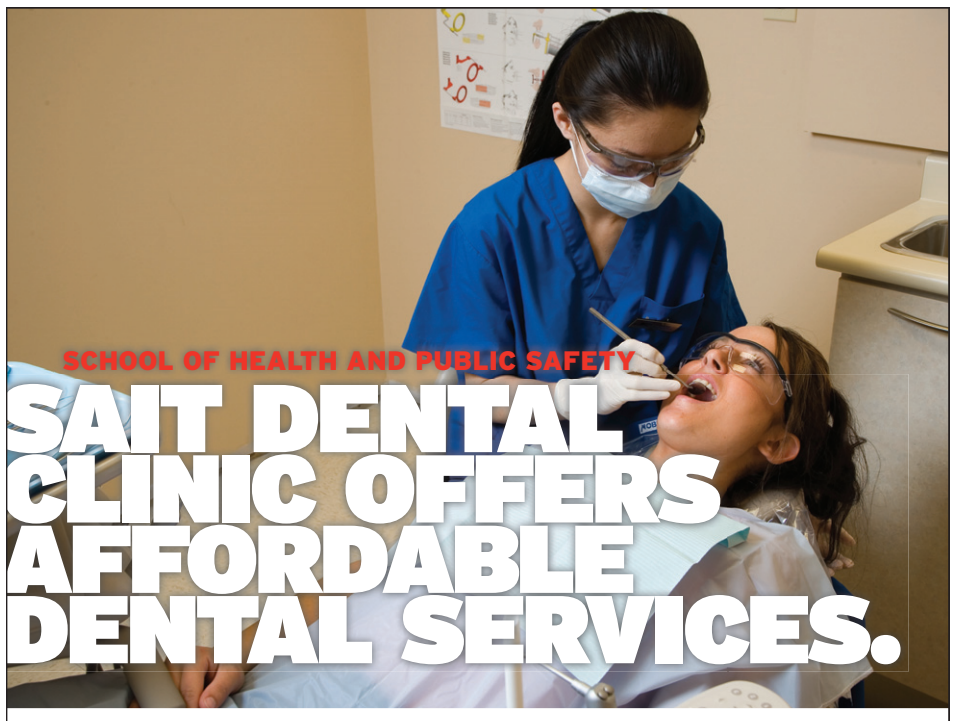
Attorney General seeking long-term offender status

CRIME The Alberta Attorney General's office is seeking long-term offender status for a Calgary man with a long history of sexual abuse against children.

Alan Paul Norton, 65, has two prior sexual assaults against children and now three convictions of child pornography.

A hearing date will be set on Friday about the status.

METRO CALGARY



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Breaking down barriers

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Calgary

ACCESSIBILITY The northeast Genesis Centre of Community Wellness is $15-million closer to making its future facility accessible to everyone.

Yesterday, Human Resources and Skills Development Minister Diane Finley announced that the Government of Canada will be supporting the North East Centre of Community Society (NECCS) through the Enabling Accessibility Fund to allow the centre to include power doors, handicap-accessible washrooms, visual fire alarms and signs with Braille.

"We are eliminating barriers and helping build communities together," said Finley of the $70-million centre.

"Our aim is to make a world-class facility."
MP Devinder Shory

When finished, it will include a library, YMCA fitness centre, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, and education and immigration services.

Calgary Northeast MP Devinder Shory said these funds will create job opportunities in construction. "Our aim is to make a world-class facility," he said.

Logan King, 8, also attended the announcement, clutching tightly a beloved soccer ball.

He said his only thoughts were "excited" when he heard that he was closer to getting a soccer field that wasn't his yard.

"It'll be nice to have a place we can walk to," said Sherry King, Logan's mom and secretary for NECCS, who lives in Martindale.

News in brief

CRIME Personal robberies in Edmonton have shot up 31 per cent in 2009 so far, according to figures from the Edmonton police, and Edmonton police Chief Mike Boyd says people must to do more in protecting themselves. "We want to stop it now, we want to turn this around, and we are looking for the public's help," said Boyd. "We need to work together to make our city safer."

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'Baby touristing' on the rise, doctors say

Quebec doctors say they're seeing an increasing number of pregnant women from other countries visiting Montreal on vacation just to deliver their babies, a strategy known as "baby touristing." The practice is promoted on some international websites and blogs as a way to get automatic Canadian citizenship for children. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Meat-packing dispute looming?

A U.S. proposal for unofficial changes to country-of-origin labels on meat sold in U.S. stores may re-ignite a cattle trade dispute with Canada, two farm lobbyists said yesterday. Canada shelved a World Trade complaint last month in the belief that U.S. rules would give packers more flexibility. It had charged the U.S. labelling law was a trade barrier that depressed prices for Canadian livestock. REUTERS

Ignatieff gets his 15 minutes

OBAMA Liberals are accusing Prime Minister Stephen Harper of snubbing Michael Ignatieff after it emerged that President Barack Obama's traditional meeting with the parliamentary Opposition leader has been relegated to a 15-minute chat in a holding room at the Ottawa airport.

Ignatieff complained yesterday about the quickie nature of the meeting with the president.

"My problem is with Prime Minister Harper, not with President Obama."
Michael Ignatieff

The Liberal leader said he should get at least 20 minutes with Obama, which he said was the length of the meeting that Harper, then Opposition leader, had with George W. Bush in Ottawa in 2004.

But "you don't make demands to the president of the United States," Ignatieff said. "My problem is with Prime Minister Harper, not with President Obama."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Protectionism risky: Harper

Move threatens worldwide depression, PM tells U.S. TV audience

Obama's**Visit**

On the eve of a visit by U.S. President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has warned Americans that protectionist moves on trade risk a worldwide depression.

"This is a huge risk to the world right now. If there is one thing that could turn a recession into a depression, it is protectionist measures across the world," Harper said in an interview with CNN yesterday.

With Obama making a highly anticipated visit to Ottawa today, Harper used his interview to deliver a pointed message to an American audience, saying that the "Buy American" provisions in the U.S. stimulus package "have been a concern worldwide."

"Part of the reason we're all committed to co-ordinated stimulus is we want to stimulate the global economy. We're in a global economy, not just our national economies," he told CNN's The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer.

While Harper said he was encouraged by Obama's reassurances that the U.S. would live up to its international trade treaties, he said Ottawa would carefully watch the implementation of the stimulus package.

Harper also sounded a caution on the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Obama had threatened to reopen during his election run.

"It's a fine line between looking at ways to make it work better, and actually starting to open the agreement. I think if you actually open the agreement, I think you would get into a negotiation that would never terminate," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JIM YOUNG/REUTERS

A pedestrian in Ottawa yesterday walks past a poster of U.S. President Barack Obama, in advance of his visit. Prime Minister Stephen Harper gave an interview on CNN yesterday in which he told Americans that "Buy American" policies threaten the global economy. Trade is expected to be discussed today when Obama and Harper meet for the first time.

Activists decry tarsands oil ahead of Obama visit

PROTEST Greenpeace activists scaled a bridge in Ottawa yesterday and unfurled two large banners urging U.S. President Barack Obama to take a tough stand on Canada's huge oilsands when he visits today.

"Climate Leaders Don't Buy Tar Sands," read one of the banners, which faced toward Parliament. The oilsands represent the largest reserves outside of the Middle East, but extracting the heavy crude from the sands releases enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, blamed for global warming.

Obama — who has vowed to spend billions developing cleaner sources of energy — is due to spend a few hours in Parliament while in Ottawa on his first foreign visit since taking power last month.

"President Obama and the American public need to know that tarsands produce the dirtiest oil on Earth … the tarsands are an international global warming disaster," said Mike Hudema of Greenpeace.

The problem for Obama is that Canada is the largest single supplier of energy to the United States. Canadian oil production last year was 2.75 million barrels a day, of which the oilsands accounted for just under half. REUTERS

Banner

- The large banner discouraging tarsands usage was removed from Alexandra Bridge by the activists about an hour and a half after police arrived.

CBC NEWS

News in brief

NAFTA Critics of the North American Free Trade Agreement say they do not expect U.S. President Barack Obama to leave Ottawa today with a blueprint to fulfill his promise to renegotiate the pact. While NAFTA is on the agenda for the visit with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the short sessions will allow little time for detailed discussion.

VANCOUVER In the wake of the Lower Mainland's 12th incident of gunplay in just over two weeks, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson is pleading for the creation of a regional police force to stop the bloodshed.

TRAPPED People in the Newfoundland community of Seal Cove said yesterday they are afraid that if help doesn't arrive soon, five dolphins trapped by ice will drown. The mammals swam into the harbour four days ago and now they can't get back to the ocean. REUTERS

Oilsands a 'wild card': NASA scientist

ENVIRONMENT Canada's oilsands are an environmental "wild card," NASA's James Hansen said in an interview before President Barack Obama's trip to Ottawa, where energy and climate change will be on the agenda.

"We would be heading … to eventually an ice-free state."
James Hansen

As director of the U.S. space agency's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York City, Hansen has long opposed the burning of oil, gas and coal for their contribution to global warming.

And he really objects to the burning of fuels gleaned from tar shale and tarsands in western Canada.

"If we burn all the conventional fuels — oil, gas and coal — we would be heading the planet to eventually an ice-free state," Hansen said yesterday. REUTERS

New deal struck for Olympic Village

VANCOUVER 2010 **Games**

GAMES The City of Vancouver will finance the entire $1-billion Olympic Village development after purchasing a $750-million loan agreement from New York-based Fortress Investment Group yesterday morning.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson said the deal gives the city the best return on its investment and allows it to focus on getting the village ready in time for the Games.

"We have gone from a deal that was clearly not in the interests of taxpayers," Robertson said, "to an agreement that puts Vancouver's taxpayers first."

During a special council meeting yesterday morning, city manager Penny Ballem informed councillors that an hour earlier, the city had transferred $319 million to Fortress to "purchase" the loan.

The amount represents the money that Fortress loaned project developer Millennium, as well as a $4-million early repayment fee.

JEFF HODSON/METRO CANADA

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Infant boy married off to dog to ward off wild animal attacks

An infant boy was married off to his neighbours' dog in Bhubaneswar, India, by villagers, who said it will stop the groom from being killed by wild animals, officials said yesterday. REUTERS

World

Trees absorb emissions: Report

Tropical trees have grown bigger over the past 40 years and now absorb 20 per cent of fossil fuel emissions from the atmosphere, highlighting the need to preserve threatened forests, British researchers said yesterday. The researchers used data collected from nearly 250,000 trees in the world's tropical forests over the past 40 years.

REUTERS

Author calls tale mistake

FABRICATION A Holocaust survivor whose memoir was cancelled late last year after the publisher found out that his love story was not true said he had simply made a mistake.

"I made a mistake and I want America to forgive me for that mistake," Herman Rosenblat, 79, said.

Allies hit over opium

DRUGS Afghanistan's allies can and must do more to combat the smuggling of chemicals used to make heroin into Afghanistan, the world's largest opium producer and exporter, Afghan Counter Narcotics Minister General Khodaidad said yesterday.

REUTERS

Brussels **Faceless protest**

FRANCOIS LENOIR/REUTERS

Peace activists hold banners to protest against the U.S. missile shield program in front of the EU parliament in Brussels yesterday. The U.S. wants to install the radar system in Poland and the Czech Republic to counter "rogue" states such as Iran.

Baby buy charges laid

A U.S. couple held in Egypt on charges of buying two newborn babies — a boy and a girl — had long suffered from infertility and dreamed of children who would share their mother's Egyptian heritage, a family member said.

The couple, Louis Andros and Iris Botros, travelled to Egypt last year to adopt the infants and bring them to their home in North Carolina, where they own a Greek restaurant. They did not realize there was no legal way for them to adopt in Egypt, the family member said.

"They were so happy. They were crazy happy," Shawn Botros, Iris' brother, said.

"Somebody called them from Egypt ... and said, 'We found kids for you to adopt.' She (Iris) went to Egypt. She didn't do any research. She is the type of person who does not think ahead of the situation ... They called me from Egypt, they were so happy. They got the kids. The kids were beautiful."

The couple named the children Alexander and Victoria, and Louis referred to the baby girl as his "little princess."

The couple was then arrested and jailed in Egypt, charged with buying the children and obtaining forged birth certificates.

REUTERS

News in brief

MIDDLE EAST Israel decided yesterday against lifting its border blockade of the Gaza Strip until Hamas agreed the release of a captured Israeli soldier, putting a ceasefire proposal on hold, Reuters reports.

U.K. The jury in the trial of eight men accused of conspiring to murder by blowing up airliners was discharged yesterday for "legal reasons," BBC News Online reports. A new jury will be appointed later.

VATICAN CITY Pope Benedict, told U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi yesterday that Catholic politicians and legislators cannot back abortion rights, Reuters reports.

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Comment

Obligation not celebration

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

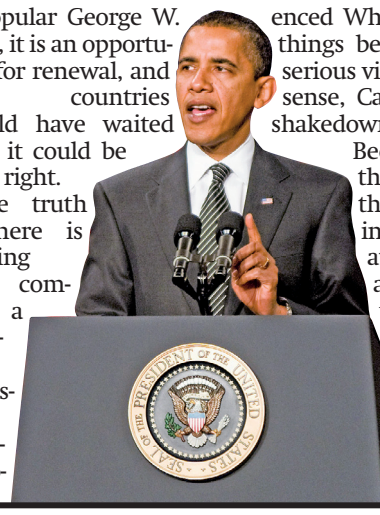
Barack Obama comes to Ottawa today, and you have to wonder why. He will see nothing of the capital and the capital will see nothing of him.

This supernova will be little more than a flash across our northern sky. His visit is as perfunctory as a campaign stop. The tone and timing is more about domestic politics and presidential logistics than bilateral relations.

Why leave Washington at all? For all that he and Stephen Harper are doing in public today, they could have talked over a webcam. Or a BlackBerry.

The answer is this visit is more obligation than celebration. The U.S. president thinks he should make his first foreign trip to Canada, which isn't necessarily the tradition, but is still something we should honour and appreciate.

Sadly, the visit isn't a celebration of a successful relationship between peoples who are more alike than any two on Earth. After the unpopular George W. Bush, it is an opportunity for renewal, and both countries should have waited until it could be done right.



The truth is there is nothing that compels a president to visit Canada today, in the midst of an economic crisis. When Americans think of Canada, there is "no fierce urgency of now."

Simply put, Obama is coming to Canada because it is convenient. It allows him to say that he came here to meet his counterpart, exchange pleasantries, do some business and fly home for supper.

It also allows his inexperienced White House to test things before he makes a serious visit abroad. In that sense, Canada is Obama's shakedown cruise.

Because he frets that Americans will think he isn't taking care of business at home, this isn't a state visit. He won't stay overnight. He won't bring his wife. He won't sip champagne at a banquet with the Governor General (who, desperate to see him, will appear at the airport).

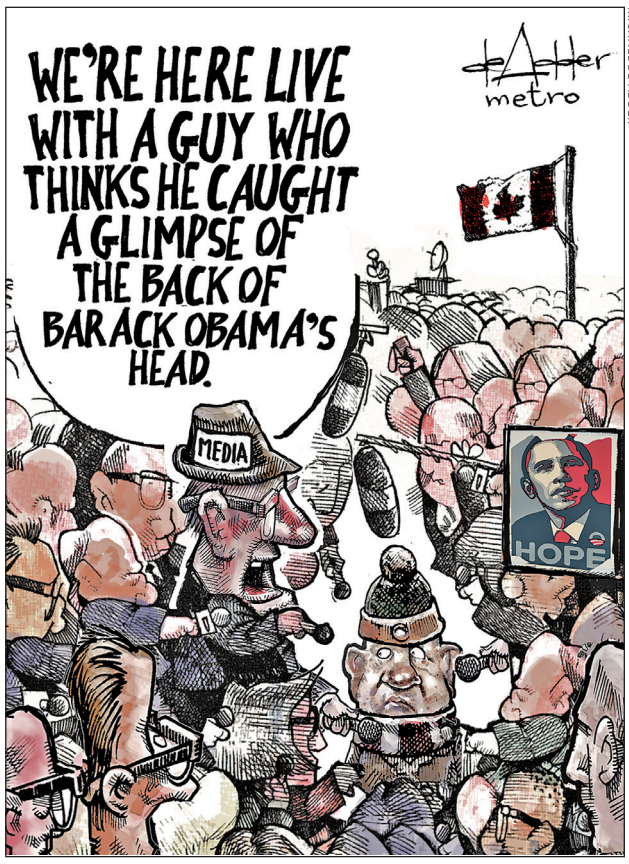
Most important, the U.S. president won't address Parliament. He wants his first major speech to be to Congress later this month.

For his part, Harper knows that Obama is much more popular than he is. He knows the U.S. president will challenge him on the environment. And he worries Obama could emerge as a third force in Canadian politics, aligning himself with the opposition here.

So, a lightning visit by a phantom president discharging a diplomatic duty suits Prime Minister Harper as much as it does President Obama. Canadians are the losers.

Obama's**Visit**

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Canada: A cult with fetish for the past

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

Journalist & media consultant

The National Battlefields Commission has cancelled the 250th re-enactment of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham scheduled for this coming August.

I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

First, I didn't know some of the few taxpayer dollars I have left go to something called The National Battlefields Commission, and have, apparently, since 1908.

Second, call me crazy, but is it a good idea to rub salt in what is still a raw wound in the body politic of what was New France? It would be like the good people of Manitoba and Saskatchewan reenacting the hanging of Louis Riel. Feelings are still a little raw in this young nation of ours — or, if you prefer — in these young nations of ours. We're not ready to make nice, I guess.

It's hard to tell who's the real villain here: Les Idiots at the Commission who thought it would be swell to have a masked ball and other frivolity to commemorate the defeat of the French and the deaths of opposing generals Wolfe and Montcalm.

Then there's the Réseau de Résistance du Québec, a group of fierce separatists who promised to kick some ass if the re-enactment took place.

Fearing a more authentic replay of the battle than it bargained for, the Commission whipped out the white flag it keeps on hand for such occasions and "Je me Souviens" became "Fuhgeddaboudit" quick march.

Feelings are still a little raw in this young nation of ours ... We're not ready to make nice, I guess.

Someone pointed out there was a similar enactment 10 years ago under the Parti Quebecois and nobody complained. I guess it's OK to re-stage your own defeat, but it hurts when les maudits Tories try it.

Moi, I think they should indeed re-enact the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, but I think they should hold it at night, because much of what happens in Canada involving the Two Solitudes reminds me of these lines from the great Matthew Arnold poem Dover Beach, one of the saddest in any official language:

"Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night."

One day, perhaps in another 250 years, we'll be able to put it all behind us, and build a Canada that is no longer a cult with a fetish for the past. Now that would be worth celebrating.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist, owner of Sullivan Media consulting, and editor-in-chief of Orato.com, the citizen news website.

Letters

Getting high makes you more careful, says study

Another one of the overhyped stereotypes around marijuana users has just bitten the dust. For years people assumed getting "stoned" made you either lazy or careless. But what if marijuana use actually made you more careful and less likely to screw up and hurt yourself?

A new Swiss study published at Bio-Med Central concludes exactly that. Marijuana can protect you from injury. The study compared injuries that required hospitalization. The authors' conclusions were surprising. Marijuana use is not associated with increased risk of injury — marijuana users actually get injured less than sober people. "The results for cannabis use were quite surprising. The present study in fact indicated a protective effect of cannabis use in a dose-response relationship."

"Great news," proclaimed Prince of Pot Marc Emery. "We've said for years that marijuana users are responsible and productive members of society."

The authors of the study agreed, speculating that the effects of marijuana, in contrast to alcohol, make you more likely to avoid risky situations.

JACOB HUNTER, VANCOUVER

Helping children survive

We can't imagine several hundred Canadian preschool children dying every single day, can we? Unfortunately, this is the situation in many other regions of the world. According to UNICEF, 9.2 million children under the age of five, or 25,000, succumb daily to a host of health challenges. The causes of death vary, but the root cause is almost always extreme poverty.

Canada has been a leader in providing basic immunizations in countries around the world, and the single largest distributor of insecticide to treat bed nets. These targeted realizations are praiseworthy, but they don't seriously fight extreme poverty. To be more effective in the war against poverty, our country must also work towards the true emergence of our democracy and other democracies in the world.

BRUNO MARQUIS, GATINEAU, QUE.

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Bank of Canada names ex-IMF adviser as deputy governor
The Bank of Canada said yesterday it has appointed former International Monetary Fund adviser Timothy Lane as a deputy governor of the central bank, filling the spot vacated by Sheryl Kennedy in December. REUTERS

Business

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OIL $34.62 US $0.31

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Auto bankruptcy still viable: Analysts

A government-backed bankruptcy reorganization remains an option for saving General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, analysts said yesterday, even though the automakers have said they would rather not go down that road.

GM and Chrysler asked for billions of dollars more in federal aid Tuesday and announced sweeping changes, including capacity reductions and job cuts.

Some Wall Street analysts were disappointed that the restructuring plans submitted to the U.S. Treasury did not include key concessions from the United Auto Workers union and the automakers' bondholders.

One analyst said that taking the bankruptcy option off the table would reduce the bargaining power of the companies.

GM, which has requested $16.4 billion US in additional loans from the U.S. government for a total of up to $30 billion, has said it would run out of cash as soon as March without new federal funding.

The request came shortly after smaller rival Chrysler asked for another $5 billion in aid.

David Leiker, analyst with Robert W. Baird, still sees bankruptcy as the best option for a reorganization.

"Though likely to be painful near-term, we continue to believe that the challenges to restructuring GM and Chrysler are too complicated to be met outside of a bankruptcy," Leiker said.

REUTERS

Bankruptcy bills

- GM estimated that if it were forced to reorganize in a traditional bankruptcy, it could cost the government $100 billion US.
- Chrysler estimated that the bill for its bankruptcy could hit $1,200 per taxpayer.

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Antigua Bank stampede

PHILIP BROWN/REUTERS

People seeking to withdraw funds line up outside the Bank of Antigua in Collage yesterday. Bank of Antigua is part of Texas billionaire Allen Stanford's sprawling global business interests but is separate from an Antigua-based offshore affiliate, Stanford International Bank Ltd., at the heart of fraud charges lodged by U.S. regulators. The tycoon was charged with an $8-billion US fraud on Tuesday.

Transcontinental cutting 1,500 jobs

LAYOFFS Commercial printer Transcontinental Inc. is slashing 1,500 jobs — or about 10 per cent of its workforce — as a "rapid deterioration" of the economy forces its customers to cut back on marketing spending, it said yesterday.

The company has also put in place a hiring freeze, reduced capital investments and is implementing other measures, such as unpaid leave and reduced work weeks to cut costs.

All told, the actions should reduce costs by about $75 million annualized, it said. REUTERS

Obama unveils plan to stem foreclosures

HOUSING U.S. President Barack Obama pledged up to $275 billion US yesterday to help stem a wave of home foreclosures that sparked the U.S. financial meltdown, the next phase in an effort to lift the country out of recession.

Obama's strategy has three main components: A $75-billion fund would subsidize homeowners struggling to pay their mortgages; housing finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may invest a further $100 billion in mortgages to mop up more home loans and spur fresh lending; and Washington may inject a further $100 billion into each of the mortgage giants, protecting them against losses.

REUTERS

In brief

IMF The International Monetary Fund might lower its world growth forecasts again, with the global economy looking like it might stagnate this year. Last month it slashed its 2009 forecast to 0.5 per cent. The final figure "could well approach zero," said IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

TRADE Canadian wholesale trade dropped 3.4 per cent in December from November, the largest month-over-month decrease for over five years, on lower exports and weaker sales in Canada, Statistics Canada said yesterday. REUTERS

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U.S. attorney general sees Madoff, Stanford cases as largest frauds
U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said yesterday he expects the alleged frauds involving Texas billionaire Allen Stanford and Wall Street veteran Bernard Madoff will be the largest that authorities uncover. Stanford has been accused of an $8-billion US fraud, while Madoff has been charged with a $50-billion Ponzi scheme. REUTERS

Fraud suspect to be sent to Canada

An investment advisor accused of orchestrating a multimillion-dollar fraud in Canada will not fight extradition from the United States, a U.S court was told yesterday.

Ian Thow made an initial appearance in a U.S. District Court in Portland, Ore., where he was arrested Tuesday on an extradition request from Canada, which he fled in 2005 as allegations of wrong-doing became public.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police say Thow, 47, a U.S. citizen who lived in Victoria, B.C., stole $10 million, but Canadian media reports have said the total was higher than that.

The British Columbia Securities Commission found Thow, a former mutual fund salesman, guilty in 2007 of what it called one of the "most callous and audacious frauds" ever in the province.

He was charged criminally in June 2008 with 25 counts of fraud over $5,000.

The regulators said Thow defrauded hundreds of clients from 2003 to 2005, convincing some to sell their mutual funds and mortgage their homes to raise money for nonexistent investments.

REUTERS

Crisis wiped trillions off banks' value, says study

FINANCE The financial crisis has wiped $5.5 trillion US off the market value of the world's banks, equivalent to 10 per cent of global GDP, according to a report released yesterday.

The Boston Consulting Group estimated the banking industry's value fell $4 trillion by the end of 2008, and lost a further $700 billion in the first three weeks of 2009. Banks were worth $8.8 trillion in the third quarter of 2007, when the financial crisis began in earnest. REUTERS

$174B of debt risking junk status

DOWNGRADES More than $174 billion US of debt worldwide is at risk of being downgraded to junk status, the most in at least 18 years, Standard & Poor's said yesterday.

Companies downgraded to junk status, so-called fallen angels, are already rising, and the trend will get worse if the economy remains weak, according to S&P.

Almost $33 billion of debt has already been cut to junk this year, led by American General Finance Corp., part of American International Group, with about $16 billion of debt, S&P said.

A downgrade to junk can be debilitating as it raises a company's borrowing costs and makes it harder to access financing.

In danger

- Potential fallen angels include Macy's Inc., J.C. Penney, British Airways, Toll Brothers, Fortune Brands Inc. and Tyco Electronics, S&P said.

S&P considers a company at risk of falling to junk status if it is rated "BBB-minus," the lowest investment grade, and is on review for downgrade or has a negative outlook.

Borrowers already cut to junk status this year include American Greetings Corp., Sealed Air Corp. and Russia-based Gazprombank, the banking arm of gas export monopoly Gazprom.

REUTERS

Cocoa, coffee, sugar all take hit

COMMODITIES Cocoa futures tumbled on investor liquidation yesterday and sugar and coffee fell under pressure from a stronger dollar and on worries over the outlook for demand due to grim global economic prospects.

REUTERS

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Report: Griffey to return to Seattle

Ken Griffey Jr. has apparently decided to return to the Seattle Mariners. Reports last night say the deal came after an agreement with the Atlanta Braves fell through. Griffey enjoyed the best years of his career in Seattle, from 1989 to '99. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Stegall hangs up the spikes

Winnipeg Blue Bombers receiver Milt Stegall retired yesterday as the CFL's all-time leader for touchdowns (147), TD receptions (144) and career receiving yards (15,153). Stegall, who spent his entire 14-year career with the Bombers, also holds CFL records for most TDs in a season (23 in 2002). The 39-year old will join TSN as an analyst.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

JOE GIZA/REUTERS

Alex Ovechkin of the Capitals slams into Canadiens goaltender Carey Price after scoring last night.

Caps shoot down Habs

NHL RESULT

Canadiens 3 **Capitals** 4 (SO)

VS Washington Capitals

Alexander Semin picked up the game-winner in the shootout as Washington nipped Montreal 4-3 in D.C. last night.

On the first shot of the shootout, Carey Price appeared to have stopped Semin, but the puck fell out of his pads and into the net as Price slid backwards.

Alex Ovechkin, Backstrom and David Steckel scored in regulation for the Capitals, who have won three in a row and four of five.

Montreal lost in its first game without Alex Kovalev, sent home by general manager Bob Gainey on Tuesday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Alexei-gate

- According to TSN, Alexei Kovalev denied rumours that were circulated yesterday that he expects to be traded by the Canadiens.

Hoops and pucks

John Chick

john.chick@metronews.ca

One leader is an African-American christened by many as charismatic force for change who plans to turn the White House bowling alley into a basketball court. The other is an Anglo-Canadian maligned by many for stiffness who has been talking about writing a book on hockey history for at least three years.

So let's put aside dealing with the minutia of the worst economic crisis of our lifetime, and talk about what Obama and Harper will likely at least touch on at some point today — sports — specifically hockey and basketball.

Sure one's a Democrat and the other a Conservative, but will they have anything in common sportswise?

It's hard not to find two sports more vastly different than hockey and basketball. Even though NHL and NBA seasons mirror each other and teams from each league share 10 arenas across North America, the culture of the sports differ greatly.

Hardwood vs. ice. Flair vs. grit. At last count, the NHL was 96.6 per cent white, while the NBA was 77 per cent black. Just ask certain Maple Leaf fans what they think about the Raptors sometime.

Yet why does each sport suffer popularity issues in the other country?

In the U.S., the answer is clearer. South of the Mason-Dixon line, hockey has no relevance, mostly because of the absence of ice. It may not have stopped Gary Bettman and the NHL from expanding ad nauseam into the sun/bible/non-hockey belt, but most kids outside New England, Michigan and Minnesota don't grow up playing it and therefore lack connection to it.

The same can't be said in Canada. It would be impossible to find a school in the country without at least two basketball nets, and an aimless drive through suburbia would find rims and backboards on a large number of driveways.

Yet outside a handful of communities, the game takes a far back seat to hockey and paltry TV ratings outside Toronto and other areas helps drive the Canadian media's hyperbolic obsession with puck.

"People can relate to the average hockey player because the athletes come as much from small town Canada than any large urban centre," says Robert Schinke, associate professor at Laurentian University and co-author of a book called Cultural Sport Psychology.

The USA's Olympic hockey win over the USSR in 1980 consistently ranks as one of the greatest sporting moments in American history. Plus, it likely paved the way for cinematic masterpieces like Rocky IV.

Meanwhile, at the 1983 World University Games in Edmonton, the Canadian men's basketball team stunned a U.S. squad featuring Charles Barkley and Karl Malone en route to a gold medal. Unlike the Miracle on Ice stateside, it's barely remembered in Canada, and today the first five hits of a Google search titled "Canada USA basketball 1983" brings up nothing related to the actual event.

But the process of getting basketball back to respectability in Canada is hopefully changing.

"We've taken steps in the right direction," says Toronto Raptors broadcaster and former national team player Sherman Hamilton.

"Nothing's perfect yet because the product's not finished ... but I think it's really started at the grassroots level."

And while like many others, Hamilton concedes that there needs to be a bigger financial commitment from both governments and the business community, success itself can go a long way.

"Once our players reach maturity they have to win."

Obama's Visit

B-ball upsides

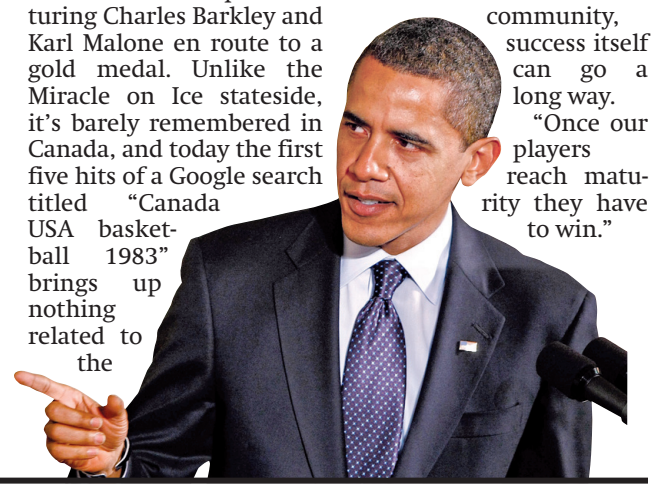
- Shaquille O'Neal
- Hops, dunks
- Nicknames that don't simply add a 'y' or 'er' to the end of a player's surname

Even money

- Head-to-head, Harper probably spells H-O-R-S-E faster than you can say "Afghanistan." But while lacking a signature move such as the Shawinigan Handshake, Harper likely gets Obama back in road hockey with blazing wrist shot .

Hockey upsides

- Alex Ovechkin
- Can usually expect every player to bust their butt
- Stanley Cup much nicer than Larry O'Brien trophy



SCOREBOARD

NHL

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	OT	P
CALGARY	33	18	6	72
Vancouver	28	21	8	64
Edmonton	29	24	4	62
Minnesota	28	24	3	59
Colorado	23	23	1	47

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	OT	P
Detroit	38	12	8	84
Chicago	32	15	8	72
Columbus	29	23	6	64
Nashville	27	28	3	57
St. Louis	24	26	7	55

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	OT	P
San Jose	38	8	9	85
Dallas	28	21	7	63
Anaheim	28	25	5	61
Los Angeles	24	22	9	57
Phoenix	25	28	5	55

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	OT	P
New Jersey	37	18	3	77
Philadelphia	30	16	9	69
NY Rangers	31	22	6	68
Pittsburgh	27	25	6	60
NY Islanders	17	34	6	40

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	OT	P
Boston	40	10	8	88
Montreal	30	21	7	67
Buffalo	30	22	6	66
Ottawa	22	25	9	53
Toronto	21	26	10	52

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	OT	P
Washington	37	16	5	79
Florida	29	20	8	66
Carolina	28	25	5	61
Dallas	19	27	11	49
Los Angeles	21	32	5	47

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Washington 4 Montreal 3 (SO)
Columbus 4 St. Louis 3
Detroit 6 Nashville 2
N.Y. Rangers 3 N.Y. Islanders 1
Los Angeles at Anaheim

TODAY'S GAMES

CALGARY at Minnesota
Carolina at N.Y. Islanders
Buffalo at Philadelphia
Montreal at Pittsburgh
Columbus at Toronto
Vancouver at Ottawa
New Jersey at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Florida
St. Louis at Nashville
Edmonton at Dallas
Atlanta at Phoenix
Los Angeles at San Jose

WHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

CALGARY 5 Saskatoon 1
Brandon 4 Medicine Hat 1
Prince Albert 4 Moose Jaw 3
Chilliwack at Kelowna N
Seattle at Spokane N
Portland at Everett N

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 93 Toronto 76
Charlotte 103 Indiana 94
Chicago 113 Milwaukee 104
Dallas 113 New Jersey 98
Denver 101 Philadelphia 89
Minnesota 111 Miami 104
New Orleans 117 Orlando 85
Atlanta at Sacramento
Memphis at Portland
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers
L.A. Lakers at Golden State

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Prospect created fake identity
A baseball prospect from the Dominican Republic who received a $1.4 million signing bonus from the Washington Nationals lied about his age and name. Esmailyn Gonzalez, who was thought to be 18, was found to be Carlos David Alvarez Lugo, born in November 1985 – meaning he is really 23. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

F1 rumours news to Danica

When auto racing superstar Danica Patrick's name surfaced recently in reports about an all-new Formula One racing team, it was news to her.

"Sexy driver set to be F1's first female in 18 years," said the headline on one of several stories linking the 26-year-old Indy car driver and Sports Illustrated swimsuit model to a team reportedly being launched next Tuesday in the U.S.

Patrick, who was at the Toronto International Auto Show yesterday to help promote the official launch of ticket sales for the Honda Indy Toronto race next July, said she was flattered to be mentioned "in the same sentence as Formula One" but that's as far as it went.

"There weren't any quotes (in the stories) from me," said the 5-foot-2, 100-lb. brunette, "because they haven't spoken to me. We'll see what they have to say, though. Maybe they'll call."

Patrick shot to auto racing prominence in 2005 when she won three poles in the Indy car series and came close to winning the pole for the Indianapolis 500.

She started fourth in the 33-car field that year and eventually finished fourth after becoming the first woman to lead laps in the world's most famous race.

Last year, she became the first woman to win an Indy car race when she beat Helio Castroneves to the checkered flag in the Indy Japan 300 at Twin Ring Motegi speedway in Japan.

That, plus numerous endorsements of women's products and two appearances in the famous SI swimsuit issue (wearing a bikini, she's draped over the hood of a car on pages 6 and 7 of this year's issue), have made her extremely well known.

"Looking OK, and getting all made up and everything, is a lot of fun. I'm not very shy, so if I'm not comfortable with something, I say so."
Danica Patrick on her appearance in this month's Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue.

Although she's been criticized by some for appearing in magazines in less than full apparel, Patrick is not bothered by it.

"I think the swimsuit issue is awesome," she said. "For me, as a brand, it's a really good thing to be in such a sought-after magazine. I'm always very true to myself and what I feel comfortable with. Being female, and looking OK, and getting all made up and everything, is a lot of fun. I'm not very shy, so if I'm not comfortable with something, I say so."

Patrick said she has a good feeling about the '09 season, and is particularly looking forward to Toronto.

"I made my first professional start here in 2002," she said. "It was in the Barber Dodge Pro Series (part of the Molson Indy program) but I don't remember a lot about it. I don't think I won, though, so we'll have to try to change that this year."

She said she hopes that Canadian driver Paul Tracy, who's currently unemployed, gets a ride in time for the Toronto race.

"He's a great name and it would be wonderful for the event to have a Canadian driver in the race, especially one as exciting as Paul is.

"He'd be a tough competitor out there, but all in all, it would be best to have him in the race."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

NBA Los Angeles Clippers forward Zach Randolph has been suspended two games without pay, the NBA announced yesterday, for striking Phoenix's Louis Amundson in the face Tuesday. The incident occurred with 32.3 seconds left in the first quarter of the game, a 140-100 win for the Suns.

NBA Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady will miss the remainder of the season and will have microfracture surgery on his injured left knee.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SOCCER Wayne Rooney scored on his return from injury as Manchester United crushed Fulham 3-0 at Old Trafford yesterday to surge five points clear of Liverpool at the top of the Premier League. **REUTERS**

For more sports coverage, visit us online at www.metronews.ca/sports

TheHockeyNews

Brian Costello
Will return

A-Rod Back to work

AL MESSERSCHMIDT/GETTY IMAGES

The New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, stretches under the watchful eye of manager Joe Girardi at Yankees camp in Tampa, Fla., yesterday.

Groups call for UAE sanctions

TENNIS Jewish leaders called for the Women's Tennis Association to sanction the Dubai Championships and cancel the event in 2010 after top Israeli player Shahar Peer was barred from competing at this year's tournament. Peer had to forfeit her place in this week's event after the United Arab Emirates, which has no diplomatic links with Israel, denied her an entry visa into the country.

Peer

"To discriminate as the UAE did against one player in this way smacks of bigotry and racism," the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said in a statement yesterday.

"This must be declared unacceptable by the WTA and all international sporting associations. As we learned in the past, failure to condemn such actions and take corrective measures, proves destructive to international sporting competition." The statement also said: "Jewish leaders call on (the) Women's Tennis Association to sanction Dubai and cancel (the) tournament in 2010." **REUTERS**

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Miller, Nocioni on move

The Sacramento Kings traded centre Brad Miller and swingman John Salmons to the Chicago Bulls last night for Andres Nocioni, Cedric Simmons, Michael Ruffin and Drew Gooden. The Kings then turned around and sent Ruffin to Portland in exchange for forward Ike Diogu. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rangers win New York battle

NHL ROUNDUP

Rangers 3, Islanders 1

Scott Gomez notched the game-winning goal in the second period and Henrik Lundqvist made 25 saves as the New York Rangers clipped the New York Islanders, 3-1 last night at Madison Square Garden.

Nigel Dawes and Fredrik Sjostrom also scored for the Rangers, who won for just the second time in their last 10 games. Chris Drury added assists on all three goals. Mark Streit got the lone goal for the Islanders, who have dropped six of seven. Yann Danis took the loss despite 35 stops.

A rare Rangers power-play score staked the home team to a one-goal edge, as Gomez nailed a shot, which dribbled through Danis 7:26 into the second period. Drury picked up the primary assist on the score, as the club posted just their second man-advantage goal in their last 37 attempts.

Despite failing to convert on a power-play chance when Isles defenceman Chris Campoli was sent off for interference with 3:14 left in regulation, Sjostrom outhustled an Isles defender to a loose puck and hit the empty net with seven seconds to play.

RED WINGS 6, PREDATORS 2

Johan Franzen returned to the lineup from a five-game absence with an upper-body injury to post two goals and an assist, as the Detroit Red Wings scored five power-play goals en route to a 6-2 thrashing of the Nashville Predators at Joe Louis Arena.

Nicklas Lidstrom also scored twice and picked up a helper for the Red Wings, who snapped a two-game losing streak and won for the seventh time in their last nine outings.

Jiri Hudler and Henrik Zetterberg each registered a goal and an assist, while Ty Conklin made 23 saves to notch his 20th win of the season. Steve Sullivan had both goals for the Predators, who have dropped four of their last six games. Dan Ellis was victimized for six goals on 41 shots in defeat.

BLUE JACKETS 4, BLUES 3

Rick Nash was one of three players to register a goal and an assist, as the Blue Jackets escaped with a 4-3 victory over the St. Louis Blues in Columbus.

Fedor Tyutin and Manny Malhotra also recorded a multi-point effort for the Blue Jackets, who have won five of their last six games. Steve Mason turned away 21 of the 24 shots he faced to earn the 22nd win of his stellar rookie campaign.

Alexander Steen scored a goal and set up another one for the Blues, who have lost three of five.

Brad Winchester and T.J. Oshie also lit the lamp, while Chris Mason was beaten four times on 20 shots in defeat.

Trailing 4-1 after 40 minutes of play, Steen netted a short-handed goal at 6:54 of the third period and St. Louis trimmed the deficit to one on the power play.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Scott Gomez is stopped by Yann Danis last night. But Gomez went on to score the winner as the Rangers won 3-1.

Raptors outclassed by James, Cavaliers

NBA RESULT

Raptors 76 Cavaliers 93

LeBron James narrowly missed a triple-double, recording 20 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a convincing 93-76 win over the Toronto Raptors.

Anderson Varejao had a season-high 14 rebounds for the Cavs, who have beaten the Raptors in five straight and nine of the last 10 meetings.

Shawn Marion had 10 points, six rebounds and six assists in his Raptors debut, but Toronto had a two-game win streak broken and lost for the seventh time in nine games. Marion was traded from Miami to Toronto last Friday, with the Heat obtaining centre Jermaine O'Neal and forward Jamario Moon. Marcus Banks, who was also sent to Toronto, had four points Wednesday in his first game as a Raptor. Toronto is still without All-Star forward Chris Bosh, who missed his fifth straight game with a sprained right knee.

Raptors coach Jay Triano was ejected with five minutes remaining after receiving a pair of technical fouls.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shawn Marion is guarded by Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Anderson Varejao last night in Toronto.

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Metro Homes

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: NEW HOME | condo living HOMES · DESIGN · DÉCOR

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Professional staging key in selling

MICHELLE LINDSTROM
for Source Media Group

Home staging. It's easy to do — if you have a professional nearby. Sometimes something as simple as where to hang a picture or position furniture properly is not as clear to those living in the space as it is to an outside party. The image of Grandma posed in a brass, ornate frame above the fireplace is lovely — but probably only for the ones related to your grandma.

Chris Lu, Sabal Homes' senior marketing manager, says people aren't willing to buy homes now before selling what they're in due to the recession. "It's something we just identified as an obstacle to sell more houses."

Sabal now offers a professional home staging option for existing residences when customers purchase and build a Sabal home. Lu feels home staging is an up-and-coming trend in both Calgary and Edmonton, where the builder's homes are found.

"We're going to help customers feel confident that we're going to make sure they get top value for their house." HGTV is a source Lu uses frequently to find upcoming trends and noticed a recent shift of programming from house-flipping to redecorating and staging homes instead.

Yet Cheryl-Anne Priest, owner of Calgary staging company Inviting Spaces says, "The HGTV shows have been extremely misleading." Her concern is the indication homes will sell over list price as she doesn't think that's realistic presently. But she does agree a staged home will likely get a higher sale price than an unstaged property — possibly even the list price.

Another local home stager Karyn Elliott of Crazy House is, on the other hand, thankful for the staging TV programs spreading the word about what she does for a living. She says the idea was not familiar to Calgarians in 1999 when she started her business.

"The first three years I had to pioneer the whole concept." Elliott's business model stemmed from a seeming lack of homeowners' ability or willingness to fix-up and clean their properties before showing them to the public.

She created five steps in her process of home staging with clients, which include cleaning (closets included), de-personalization (no personal photos), neutralizing (think toned-down paint colours), decluttering (a purge and storing of items) and dramatization (the final wow.) She typically instructs her clients on how to complete the first four steps, but the last one is "the art of it," and involves knowing where furniture and art should be placed. "If they can get it right, they would have done it themselves already."

EDITED BY METRO CALGARY

Home staging is an up-and-coming trend in both Calgary and Edmonton, according to some experts.

2009: Year of the reno

HomeScape

Argh! The news at the beginning of the month that Ottawa is now offering a Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) left me feeling as if I'd just missed the last boat to financial salvation.

I was just too late. We finished renovations more or less on my old homestead around fall, 2008, but the tax credit applies only to work performed or goods acquired between Jan. 27, 2009 and Feb. 1, 2010.

I started investigating a little more and found that missing out on the tax credit is perhaps not as devastating as I had initially thought. It's worth 15 per cent to a maximum of $1,350 on a project costing over $1,000 to a maximum of $10,000.

If you're doing a reno in the next year, and your project costs around the $10,000 mark, you'll maximize the savings from this particular program, and I'm willing to bet that you'll be a happy camper once the 2009 tax assessments start coming back.

The tax credits apply to "enduring" home improvements, which covers a lot. It can apply to redoing a kitchen, refinishing a basement, installing a new furnace, windows, carpeting, flooring and resurfacing a driveway. The credit does not apply to appliances, furniture or routine maintenance. You can claim the tax credit on a home, cottage or condo unit owned for personal use. And remember that the work has a deadline; it must be complete before Feb. 1, 2010. Go to cra-arc.gc.ca or fin.gc.ca for more information.

There are also government programs that could be financially helpful to you. For example, the EcoEnergy Retrofit Homes Program can save you up to $5,000 per household. No, it won't contribute money for granite countertops, but it will reimburse you for projects that involve improving your heating system, ventilation, hot water system, air conditioning, insulation, air sealing, replacing doors, windows or skylights, or conserving water with toilets that use less water, for example.

But don't just launch into it without taking a look at the requirements. You must first hire a qualified energy advisor to perform an energy evaluation of your home, and the eligible improvements (and eventually, the rebates) flow from this. See ecoaction.gc.ca or phone 1-800-622-6232.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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Fondue for film buffs

Another Wolfgang Puck recipe is a Gouda Fondue served with chunks of ciabatta, baguette and vegetables for a casual affair you can set up on your coffee table in view of the TV. Provide lots of napkins and nibble and dunk without missing any of the action. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Wolfgang Puck made his name in Los Angeles when he opened Spago in 1982. He took pizza to a new level and one of his signature dishes is Smoked Salmon and Caviar Pizza. Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

Recipes

Find Puck's recipes for Gouda Fondue and pizza on wolfgangpuck.com/recipes.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

On the web

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

• Liquid Assets columnist Peter Rockwell offers Oscar night drinks, paired for each of the best picture nominees. Visit metronews.ca

• To celebrate Mardi Gras' Fat Tuesday (Feb. 24), try baking this recipe for King Cake with Cream Cheese Cinnamon Filling, courtesy of cookbook author Holly Clegg. Visit metronews.ca

Spoonfuls of Oscar glam

À **la** carte

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer

The 81st Annual Academy **Awards**

Gather your friends together for the upcoming 81st Annual Academy Awards, otherwise known as the Oscars. To dine like the stars, we look to Chef Wolfgang Puck for inspiration. For 15 consecutive years, Puck has catered the official Oscar Party.

For dessert, here is a recipe from Desserts by the Yard: From Brooklyn to Beverly Hills: Recipes from the Sweetest Life Ever by Wolfgang Puck, Sherry Yard and Martha Rose Shulman. As Executive Pastry Chef in Puck's Spago empire, Yard annually creates 1,700 or so perfect desserts for the Governors Ball following the Oscars.

Chocolate Mousse

Makes 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 oz (250 g) good quality bittersweet chocolate
- 1 /4 cup (60 ml) brewed expresso
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) Grand Marnier liqueur
- 1 cup (250 ml) whipping (35%) cream
- 2 eggs, separated
- 6 egg whites, at room temperature
- pinch of cream of tartar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sugar
- Whipped cream and chocolate shavings (garnish)

METHOD:

Place chocolate in food processor fitted with knife blade; pulse to chop chocolate very fine.

In a small saucepan, combine espresso, Grand Marnier and 2 tbsp (30 ml) of the cream; bring to a boil. Turn on food processor and add hot liquid with food processor running. Process until chocolate has melted. Scrape down sides. Continue to process until smooth. Add egg yolks and process until blended. Scrape into a large bowl.

In bowl of a standing mixer with whisk attachment (or hand held electric mixer), beat all 8 egg whites on medium speed. When they foam, add cream of tartar and continue to beat on medium speed while slowly adding sugar. Beat until they form medium peaks. Gently fold into chocolate base, in 2 additions.

In same mixer, beat remaining cream until it forms soft peaks. Fold into mousse. Spoon mousse into six ramekins or other serving cups and refrigerate for 2 hours or until set. Serve with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Riding the Recession

Meals for a steal

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Obam-aroma
Timothy's Presidential Blend No. 44 — inspired by U.S. President Barack Obama — launches nationwide today at Timothy's World Coffee restaurants. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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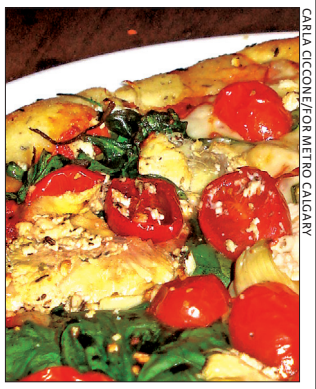
Price range: $$$$
Reservations: Yes
Client negotiations: No
Lunch w/co-workers: No
Social Lunch: Yes
Quick solo lunch: No
Time in: 11:55 p.m.
Ordered: 12:15 p.m.
Food arrived: 12:33 p.m.
Time out: 1:05 p.m.
Total time: 1 hour, 5 minutes
Low $: Soup – Either Daily Market Soup or Signature Mushroom Dijon, $9
High $: Rack of Lamb, $36
Lunch menu: No separate lunch menu
Licensed: Yes



CARLA CICCONE/FOR METRO CALGARY

Eos flatbread, $17.

Europeans like to take their time — especially while eating. Keep this in mind when lunching at Escoba Bistro and Wine Bar.

The Mediterranean-influenced restaurant is suited for longer, more lingering lunches. While this may not be possible on most workdays, enjoying a meal at Escoba is a pleasant experience — time permitting.

Earthy and romantic, the warm atmosphere is accented by a mélange of artistic touches. Escoba has a rather long wine list and the general feeling is that, at this restaurant, they really want you to drink some vino. As my lunch-buddy Megan and I peruse the menu, the waiter comes to the table to give us a splash of the Spanish wine showcased that day; he also tells us which wine would go well with the food we chose for lunch. Adding to the wine focus even more is that most menu items come with a suggested wine beneath it.

Long and pricey, the menu seems geared towards the dinner crowd, making it a bit difficult to choose lunch. I picked the Eos flatbread, topped with herbed goat cheese, grape tomatoes, artichokes and spinach on tomato sauce. It is delicious, with the flavors complementing each other nicely — but at $17 for a personal-sized pizza — delicious doesn't come cheap.

With an interesting wine list and a variety of dishes on the menu, Escoba, while lovely, is perhaps better suited for longer lunches or a romantic dinner than it is a casual, weekday lunch.

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Dupré is the new Lewinsky

Ashley Dupré, the escort involved in the Eliot Spitzer scandal, caused a fracas at New York Fashion Week. She crashed designer Yigal Azrouël's fashion show last Friday and sat in the front row, causing the designer to come apart at the seams in the media. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES**

Style

From Wu who? to Who's Who

When 26-year-old fashion designer Jason Wu realized last month that he had designed what could become the gown of the century — Michelle Obama's white chiffon inaugural ball gown — he must have known his life could change forever. Now the designer's fall 2009 show, held during New York Fashion Week, was one of the most coveted invitations, right up there with Marc Jacobs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Jump into a one-piece

Shop Suit
Designer: H&M
Shop: H&M
Address: Various locations
hm.com

Overall
Designer: Mavi
Shop: Mavi
Address: Various locations
mavi.com

Tube Romper
Designer: Lav & Kush
Shop: Vasanji
lavandkush.com

Jumpsuits

When the weather starts getting warmer, girls will be jumping into these suits. It's all about the one-piece look that designers and buyers have opted for this season. The jumpsuit can look a little too monochromatic, so break up the colour with accessories. Pair your rompers with beautiful braided leather belts or long layered necklaces. Not sure what footwear to match with it? Try a gladiator sandal or a cute cork wedge.

Basic
Designer: Old Navy
Shop: Old Navy
Address: Various locations
oldnavy.com

Nautical
Designer: Vero Moda
Shop: Purr Clothing
veromoda.com

Wraps

The quintessential all-season basic is the wrap. It's an everyday garment you can layer underneath a winter jacket or simply wear as a jacket. It is one of my favourite pieces because it's comfortable and practical. This season, wraps will be seen and worn in neutral colours.

Style File

Kim Elbo

kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I recently started nursing school and I'm looking for scrubs; where can I go to buy some?

There are several big retail stores that carry healthwear uniforms. Try Sears and Wal-Mart for general and inexpensive scrubs or go to Mark's Work Wearhouse for a wide variety in styles and patterns. If you like to keep things fashionable, check out Chi Couture Uniforms. They carry comfortable and flattering uniforms that can also be worn outside the hospital. (mychi.ca).

Email your style questions to kim.elbo@gmail.com.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

11 pluses to a recession-addled Fashion Week

Riding the **Recession**

1. Nearly all of fashion has slashed its budgets. That means much better people-watching on the subway.

2. Speaking of transportation, your odds of catching a taxicab between shows and parties just shot up too.

3. High fashion labels are still on sale, so you might actually be able to afford a nicer outfit for that party you want to crash.

4. Hour-long waits for a table at scenery restaurants are a drag, we doubt you'll encounter them.

5. Your H&M finds have never been more popular or accepted.

6. You no longer have to feel like the only broke one who can't afford what's coming down the runways.

7. You now have a reason to dust off your Miu Miu bag from three seasons ago.

8. But if you don't have one, no worries. The It bag is dead, remember?

9. Those parties you were too cool to satay at for more than ten minutes are now your only opportunity to drink top-shelf-liquor cocktails and — sigh — champagne. That is, if you can get in.

10. You won't be the only one eating those little chicken satay sticks on the party hors d'oeuvres tray.

11. Undone hair is the new do.

The recession is not all doom and gloom, remember — high fashion labels are still on sale.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cover girl
The bosses of herbal health supplement Airborne have offered to hand over $1 million US to charity if Oscar winners take their product up to the podium with them. The company made the offer to those competing for best actor, best actress, and best supporting actor and actress. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

The Associate
Shia LaBeouf is heading to law school — he is to star in a big-screen adaptation of renowned crime author John Grisham's book The Associate.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

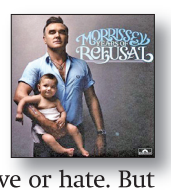
EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Morrissey's Refusal has edge

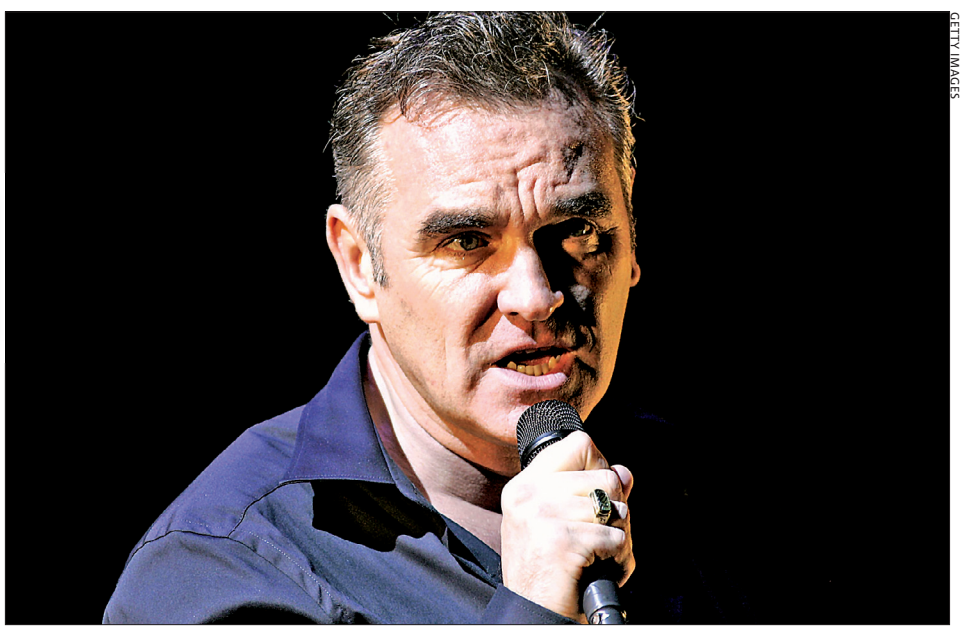
Morrissey

Album: Years of Refusal
Label: Polydor/Universal
Rating: ●●●



THERE'S AN over-the-top melodrama to Morrissey's vocal delivery that you either love or hate. But there's plenty on this new CD even Morrissey-haters can appreciate. The former Smiths' frontman has hooked up with an exceptional four-piece crew of garage artists that lends an underlying edge to his hammy emoting. He's even got guitar god Jeff Beck providing some superb cowboy/surf riffs on one track (Black Cloud). That's fortunate, because otherwise we've got a middle-aged man anxious to get off prescription pills (Something is Squeezing My Skull) and crooning about how he can only find love in French architecture (I'm Throwing My Arms Around Paris). Nonetheless, fans will again call this one of his best in years. They'll even like the mariachi horns on When Last I Spoke To Carol.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada



GETTY IMAGES

Years of Refusal — the latest album from Morrissey — was released this week.

Hot **Panda**

Album: Volcano...Bloody Volcano **Label:** Mint Records
Rating: ●●●

HOT PANDA ARE certainly enthusiastic — picture them as mop-topped 10-year-olds, bouncing on a mini trampoline as they play. The Edmonton-based band and its keyboard-driven, danceable indie-pop combine the tempo switch-ups and vocal styles of groups like the Clips and Clap Your Hands Say Yeah!. They push up the rhythmic elements: Onomatopoeia singing, staccato to percussion, and oompa basslines drive catchy tracks like Holes and Cold Hands/Chapped Lips. But at times some melodies meander into "fun-time freak-outs," and the band comes off like a goofier, less taut Born Ruffians. The thumping breakdowns, punchy vocals and grooves on tracks like Whale-Headed Girl show us the energy; now the boisterous gang just needs to reign it in.

Rob McMahon/for Metro Canada

Emm **Gryner**

Album: Goddess
Label: Dead Daisy/Outside
Rating: ●●●½

WHEN DEALING WITH the dread of a damaged romance during a dreary cold winter, one needs time to be alone to make sense of it all. That's at least the impression left from this Ontario songstress' — and Dead Daisy label owner's — 11th album. Gryner's use of austere piano-based pop noir and stripped-down folk works satisfactorily with all those lyrical images of frozen lakes, skating rinks, the cold weather, burned-out buildings, drawing blood … Vicious stuff here, tempered only by Gryner's soothing soprano. There's a good reason why the likes of Bono, David Bowie and Danny Michel have lauded praises her way.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**

music@metronews.ca

… And You Will Know Us by the **Trail of Dead**

Album: The Century of Self
Label: Justice
Rating: ●●●

AND YOU WILL Know Us By The Trail of Dead are one of those bands you either love or hate. They've amassed a following with their over-the-top epic rock songs, but grandiose guitars and soaring pianos aren't for everyone. Their latest sounds similar to their past releases, but without a major backing them this time around, the group seems freer to expand on their progy noise-rock sound. If you don't mind six minute-plus tunes and a heavy dose of distortion then this will be a great listen (especially Halcyon Days), but it'll be tough to swallow for everyone else.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

more online

• Read our review of Winter Hours by Deep Dark Woods at metronews.ca/music.

Ben **Kweller**

Album: Changing Horses
Label: ATO
Rating: ●●●½

ALTHOUGH TEXAS-BORN Ben Kweller has dabbled in country twang before, this is the rocker's first genuine foray into the world of Americana. And, luckily, he succeeds with flying colours. With pedal steel galore, rich, soothing harmonies and a host of infectious singalong tunes, this might be the guitar slinger's best record. If Kweller's smart, this musical change will be his last.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Listen to this week's reviewed music by following links at metronews.ca/music

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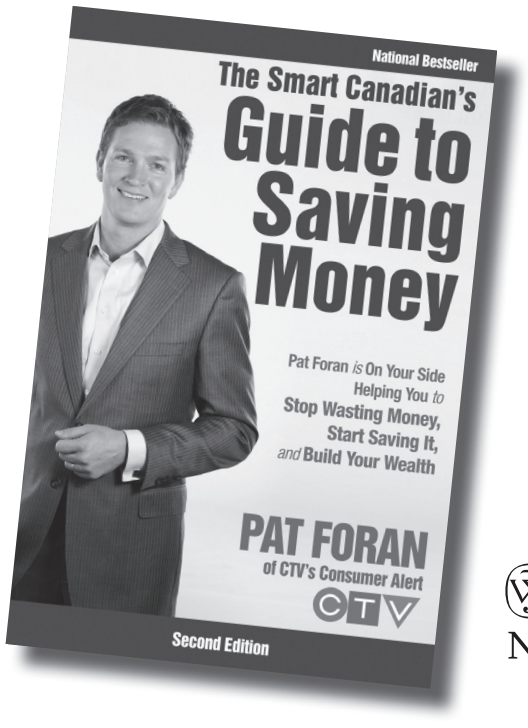

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Roberts' dream party: Night with Obamas

Julia Roberts wouldn't mind getting her three kids together with Malia and Sasha Obama. When asked about her dream dinner party, the Oscar winner said: "For sure, we're going to start with the Obamas. The girls can play with my kids." USMAGAZINE.COM

SAG, studios back to negotiations

CONTRACT Negotiators representing Hollywood studios and actors met on Tuesday for the first time since November, hoping to kick-start talks that have triggered a bitter split at the Screen Actors Guild.

The union, which has been working without a TV/theatrical contract since the old one expired on June 30, is divided between moderates who favour a quick resolution to the impasse and hardliners opposed to the negotiations and any resulting tentative agreement.

The moderates won a key battle last month by forcing the ouster of SAG's executive director and chief negotiator, Doug Allen, and the negotiating committee.

The recast team, led by new chief negotiator John McGuire, met the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) at the latter's offices in Sherman Oaks. Neither side would comment on the talks' progress. Talks were also scheduled for yesterday.

Small, simultaneous rallies with the opposing SAG causes took place outside the venue. REUTERS

Sundance programmer moves on

FESTIVAL The top programmer at the Sundance Film Festival is taking a job with Robert De Niro's upstart Tribeca festival in New York, a move that has roiled the independent movie world.

Geoffrey Gilmore spent the last 19 years serving essentially as both chief curator and public ambassador of the biggest film festival in the United States. He spearheaded its vast slate choices and managed a host of complex industry and media relationships.

Gilmore's new gig will contain elements of marketing, distribution and strategy. REUTERS

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Where's the drama?

Oscars could use a little unscripted anarchy

The producers of the 81st Annual Academy Awards are promising that Sunday's Oscar ceremonies will play like a celebratory Hollywood party. If so, let's hope there are a few party crashers as well, because what the awards really could use is a shot or two of unscripted anarchy.

PHIL McCARTEN/REUTERS

Scenic artist Dena D'Angelo unwraps Oscar statues during preparations for the upcoming 81st annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

In recent years, the Oscars have been simply too polite and well-behaved to make for a riveting spectacle. That — as much as the fact that members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences don't tend to lavish nominations on most of the year's biggest box-office hits — is a main cause of the show's ratings decline.

The Academy Awards first were broadcast on TV in 1953, which makes the show the granddaddy of reality TV. But as the senior citizen among the unscripted crowd, the Oscars have not been concerned with keeping it real.

Maybe it's the fact that Hollywood has matured. With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake on individual films, the industry is more corporate than ever. That has opened the door for a hoard of image-makers — publicists, awards consultants, fashion stylists — to rid the annual Oscar exercise of any tasteless displays of excess, even though that's what voyeuristic viewers usually crave.

Wacky gowns — à la the Bob Mackie original Cher wore in 1988 as she accepted her best actress award for Moonstruck — are verboten, of course, as is any sort of self-serving star behaviour.

In 1963, after Joan Crawford learned she hadn't earned a nomination for Whatever Happened to Baby Jane? but her rival and co-star Bette Davis had, Crawford offered to accept the award for any winner who couldn't attend. Anne Bancroft, nominated for The Miracle Worker but busy working onstage in New York on Mother Courage, took Crawford up on the offer. When Bancroft's name emerged from the winning envelope, Crawford — so legend has it — passed by Davis, saying, "Pardon me, but I have an Oscar to accept."

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

When Hearts and Minds, a film about the Vietnam War, was named best documentary in 1975, its producer Bert Schneider used his acceptance speech to read a statement that he said was from the Viet Cong delegation to the Paris peace talks.

"Please transmit to all our friends in America our recognition of all that they have done on behalf of peace and for the application of the Paris accords on Vietnam. These actions serve the legitimate interests of the American people and the Vietnamese people. Greetings of friendship to all American people," he said.

Before the show ended, an outraged Frank Sinatra responded with a statement Bob Hope helped craft, saying, "The Academy is not responsible for any political references on this program, and we are sorry that they had to take place this evening."

He was met with applause and boos.

This year, though, those sort of passions don't appear to be on tap. So far, most everyone has been on best behaviour — exactly what the 81st Academy Awards doesn't need. REUTERS

No easy flight for Runway winners

FASHION Designer Christian Siriano gained national fame as the youngest winner of the Project Runway television show, but that was no guarantee he could break into the tight world of fashion — or even get past security at New York's Fashion Week.

Siriano, known for his cocky attitude on the reality show, laughed it off when a security guard blocked him from the hall where he was presenting his line of clothes at the semi-annual fashion event.

But the incident illustrates the troubles new designers — even winners of a hit U.S. television reality show — have breaking into the elite, established fashion world.

GETTY IMAGES

Project Runway winner Christian Siriano and designer Carolina Herrera.

Siriano, 23, shows his second collection this week in New York to buyers and editors, and a new documentary Eleven Minutes that charts the difficulties of the first winner of Project Runway, Jay McCarroll, is also up for release.

The film takes a behind-the-scenes look at the months spent creating an 11-minute runway collection but also asks whether a reality show winner can transfer his television success to the real fashion world.

"I had memories of people saying, 'You are America's next great designer' and me actually believing it," McCarroll, 34, said in a recent interview with Reuters. "I still have the same struggles as everyone else does. It's a business.

Project Runway has catapulted its winners, and plenty of its losers, into the fashion spotlight after just a few high-pressure weeks of designing clothes in competition with other contestants.

"I still have the same struggles as everyone else."
Jay McCarroll from Project Runway

Siriano, who has a new deal designing low-cost shoes and bags for Payless and has ongoing sponsorship deals, said winning Project Runway gave him a kick-start in the industry but left some longtime fashion insiders skeptical of his talents.

"It definitely gave me a platform, but for other young designers I would say, it's not the best way to go if you want to be a real, serious designer," he said. REUTERS

Joe Jonas 'a ladies' man'
Joe Jonas, right, is the biggest flirt of the Jonas Brothers, Kevin Jonas revealed on the CBS' The Early Show Tuesday. "He's a ladies' man," Kevin said. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

Troubling trend for entertainment jobs

EMPLOYMENT Entertainment employment in the Los Angeles area will be flat in 2009 and post a modest uptick next year, but the long-term outlook remains worrisome.

In a report circulated yesterday, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp., a private research organization, says the local motion picture and sound-recording industries will add about 1,000 jobs this year, while broadcasters and cable companies will cut 1,000 positions.

In 2010, the local entertainment sector will add about 2,000 jobs, bringing film employment to 128,000 and TV employment to 19,000, the LAEDC estimates.

But runaway film production — in which producers base projects outside Southern California to take advantage of lower costs or financial incentives — and small-staff reality TV programming remain threatening trends, according to LAEDC economist Jack Kyser.

"Runaway production of feature films could get worse."
Economist Jack Kyser

"Runaway production of feature films could get worse," he said. "Everybody and their dog is offering incentives, but there are still no incentives from the state of California, so what you're seeing is that ever more filming is being done out of state."

The 2008 Writers Guild of America strike accelerated a shift in TV production, Kyser added.

"It has tilted everything toward reality," he said. "Everybody is looking toward costs with all the declining viewership at the broadcast networks, so you're looking at a possible change in your business model."

"The trends that you see are not favourable," Kyser said. **REUTERS**

Kink around country

Popular TV show connects with hairdressers

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Da Kink in My Hair is taking the salon on the road. The stars of the popular Global TV show, set in a Jamaican-run hairdressers in Toronto, are bringing the "Kink Cam" to visit real-life hairdressers across the country.

"We're here to connect with our fans. We're going into barber shops, hairdressing salons, schools," Trey Anthony said yesterday. The England-born comedian and actor wrote Da Kink in My Hair as a play before it was turned into a TV show on Global.

"Everyone's been really excited to see us," she said. The show, which examines "black womyn's issues," has struck a chord with viewers, she said.

Ordena Stephens stars as Novelette (Letty) Campbell, the Caribbean-Canadian owner of the hair salon. Anthony plays her sister Joy.

Halifax native Eli Goree plays a 19-year-old sent to work for a salon in the second season of Da Kink in My Hair.

Da Kink had a local guide for the Halifax stop of the tour. Newcomer Eli Goree plays Malik, a 19-year-old sent to work in the salon to keep busy — and out of trouble. Goree, who hosted the CBC show Street Cents and has appeared on Sesame Street, was having a blast introducing his new friends from Toronto to his old friends in Halifax.

"We're going into barber shops, hairdressing salons, schools."
Trey Anthony, creator

"It's good to be home. We're going around seeing my family and friends," the Halifax native said. He made sure they brought the Kink Cam to his own barber, Derek, at First Cousins. "He's been cutting my hair for years," laughed Goree.

"It's great being on the show and seeing so many different aspects of the Toronto culture, and then to come back here and see how receptive people are to the show."

After a successful first year, Global renewed Da Kink for a second season, which started on Feb. 12. Da Kink airs Thursday nights at 10:30 p.m.

It's Hammertime on cable channel

SERIES Rap superstar of the '90s MC Hammer will star in a reality series on the A&E cable network. The performer, his wife and five children will be the focus of the half-hour, 11-episode show, which will premiere this year. The title, naturally, is Hammertime.

Black Eyed Peas set date for E.N.D.

MUSIC The Black Eyed Peas will release The E.N.D., their first studio album in four years, on June 9. The group originally had hoped to release the set, which stands for The Energy Never Dies, in March. The band plans an international tour in support of the Interscope release. The group's last album Monkey Business sold 4.2 million copies in the U.S. **REUTERS**

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

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CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
2/19/09	267	351	- ACCESS	Truth, Duty, Valour		Wife Swap		Eleventh Hour (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Private Practice (N)		Truth, Duty
primetime	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	ER (HDTV) (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		News (N)
	-	-	4 OMNI	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	King	Metropia
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		Practice
	245	306	6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		CBC News	Wheel-Fortune	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Life "I Heart Mom" (N)		Survivor: Tocantins (N)		The Office	Kink in Hair	News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Hell's Kitchen (N)		Ugly Betty (N)		30 Rock	30 Rock	Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)		M pour musique (HDTV) (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		TJ Alberta
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors		Survivor: Tocantins		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Eleventh Hour
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Health Matters, TV for Life		Poirot		New Tricks		Soundstage
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Dreams of Obama		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Dreams of
	-	370	16 KHQ	News	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office	30 Rock	ER (N)
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Hell's Kitchen (N)		News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Red C
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	Westminster Dog Show			SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Score Golf	Motoring 2009	Poker Night
	408	418	27 net	(6:30) NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars.				Sportsnet Con.	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected		Oilers in Hour
	410	403	30 SCORE	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Pistons			NBA Basketball Boston Celtics at Utah Jazz. (Live)					Final Score
	411	457	44 OLN	Mantracker		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman Costa Rica.		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks -- All Out		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Pinks -- All Out
family	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Zixx Level	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	X-Men (2000, Action)	
cable variety	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly	Coyote Ugly	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	To Be Announced				News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design
	521	560	24 TLC	Street Customs (N)		Heli-Loggers (HDTV) (N)		Street Customs (HDTV)		Heli-Loggers (HDTV)		Overhaulin'
	603	561	25 FOOD	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Family	Glutton-Punish.	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Challenge		Unwrapped
	615	520	26 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The Beast "Hothead" (N)		The Beast "Hothead"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
	617	522	32 SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Silent Hill
	601	562	33 SLICE	Last 10	Last 10	The Biggest Loser		ET Canada	Matchmaker	The Biggest Loser		Trading Sp
	-	633	34 ENC2	Coupe de Ville	(7:35) Drive, She Said ★★ (1998)			Driving Miss Daisy (1989, Comedy-Drama)			(10:40) Lean on Me (1989)	
	520	505	35 DISC	Scandals of the Ancient World		MythBusters		Daily Planet		Deadliest Catch		Machines
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Glenn Gould: Hereafter (2005, Documentary)				Law & Order "Dazzled"		Without a Trace "Rage"		Rich in Love
	294	650	40 WPCH	Friends	Friends	I Know What You Did Last Summer ★ (1997, Horror)				Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP
	-	539	42 TCM	(6) Pygmalion (1938)		My Fair Lady ★★★★ (1964, Musical) Audrey Hepburn, Rex Harrison, Stanley Holloway.						Singin' in Rain
	628	584	43 SPIKE	TNA iMPACT! (HDTV) (N)				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		MANswers	MANswers	UFC 95 Count.
	522	516	45 HIST	Deep Wreck Mysteries		NCIS "High Seas"		Lost Worlds		Deep Wreck Mysteries		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Trek: Voyager
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) The Godfather, Part II ★★★★ (1974, Crime Drama) Al Pacino, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton.							Casino ★★★ (1995)	
	619	525	49 TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
	600	564	50 HGTV	The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	Most Haunted		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.	Encounters	Judging Amy		Most Haunted
	269	350	93 APTN	Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadepress	Cry Baby ★★★ (1990, Musical Comedy) Johnny Depp.				Rez Rides
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Vancouver	Kahkashan	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Desi-Mama
	571	581	100 MMM	Fabulous Life Of...		RuPaul's Drag Race		Listed "20 Dirty Ditties"		Party of Five		RuPaul's Drag
	570	580	101 MM	America's Best Dance Crew		Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Springbreak.08		Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	MuchVibe
	581	566	102 MTV	Making the Band 4 (N)		The Girls of Hedsor Hall		MTV Live	After	Making the Band 4		Hedsor Hall

critics'corner

ER
It's Valentine's Day in the ER, and Neela (Parminder Nagra) seems to be under the spell of Dr. Brenner (David Lyons). Gates (John Stamos) treats a bizarre mushroom hunter who comes in on his wedding day with breathing problems, and Banfield (Angela Bassett) is determined to have a baby despite her husband's (Courtney B. Vance) misgivings. And Dr. Carter (guest star Noah Wyle) makes a surprise visit to the ER. 8 PM on CFCN

Silent Hill
Arguably most identified by its striking ad campaign — showcasing a girl who's missing a mouth — this game-inspired melodrama casts Radha Mitchell ("Pitch Black") as a woman whose adopted daughter (Jodelle Micah Ferland) is prone to sleepwalk and, as she does, talks about a deserted mining town. They go there and, of course, find a lot more than they bargained for. Alice Krige and Sean Bean also star. 11 PM on SHOW

Front-row fan
Justin Timberlake was in New York this week to debut his new collection for William Rast and had his biggest fan, girlfriend Jessica Biel, in the front row. "I'm excited to see the show," Jessica said as she hurried inside, intouchweekly reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Eva claims to be 'pretty frugal'

IMAGE The ever glam Eva Longoria has revealed she's pretty frugal in real life, unlike her Desperate Housewives character, Gabrielle, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Adding some glamour to Matthew Williamson fashion show this week, Eva spoke out about how the financial crisis was affecting her. She commented: "I've always been pretty frugal about everything I wear on the red carpet. I return it all the next day." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jen and Jolie may cross paths at last

SHOWDOWN In what promises to be an awkward encounter, it looks like Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Aniston may finally come face to face Saturday at the Night Before the Oscars party in Beverly Hills. And according to OK magazine, Aniston is ready. "She has always known that this moment would happen and she's never been more ready to see her nemesis, Angie, in the flesh," a source tells the magazine. "She's no longer alone — she has a hot man in her life, John Mayer, and she plans to bring him as her date." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Guy's angry about having to re-shoot

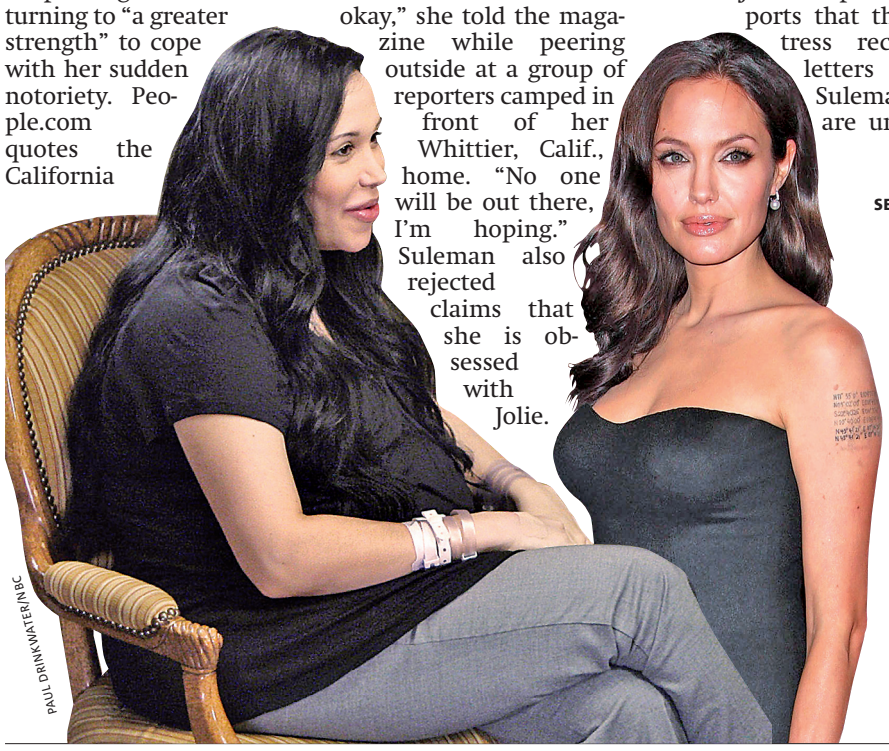
BEHAVIOUR Guy Ritchie is reportedly furious over being ordered to re-shoot scenes for his upcoming film Sherlock Holmes starring Robert Downey Jr., according to the Sun. The paper says Warner Bros. executives were displeased with a cut of the film, and blasted one scene as being "ridiculously unrealistic." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Octuplets' mom denies being obsessed with Jolie

LOOKALIKES Facing public outrage over revelations that she supports her family with the help of food stamps and claims that she is fixated with Angelina Jolie, Nadya Suleman tells People magazine that she's turning to "a greater strength" to cope with her sudden notoriety. People.com quotes the California mother of octuplets as saying she hopes the media frenzy will soon die out and allow her to focus on raising her eight new babies, born Jan. 26, along with her six older children.

"Next week it will be okay," she told the magazine while peering outside at a group of reporters camped in front of her Whittier, Calif., home. "No one will be out there, I'm hoping." Suleman also rejected claims that she is obsessed with Jolie.

"All lies. I have no interest in her. None," she says. "I've never been a fan of anybody famous. Now I kinda have a taste. But it's not being famous — it's being infamous. It's a nightmare." Jolie's rep said reports that the actress received letters from Suleman are untrue. METRO NEWS SERVICES



PAUL DRINKWATER/NBC

SJP wants the next Sex and the City film to be a 'romp'

REUNIONS Sarah Jessica Parker says the next Sex and the City movie will be a "romp," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 43-year-old actress — who will team up again with Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon for the next big screen installment — admits the movie will have to be sensitive to the growing global financial crisis. She said: "I think we want this one to be a romp. The last one, we got to tell a really mature sophisticated story that had real heartbreak in it, and this time, I think we want a romp.

"We want our audience to have a massive romp." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Von Teese says she'll never put a man before her career

WORK Dita Von Teese has vowed never to quit her raunchy stage act for a man, insisting she'd rather give up on the relationship than her career, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The sultry striptease artist says previous lovers have let her down because they want her to sacrifice her job for the romance. She says, "To begin with, they all say how great (my career) is. But when it comes down to it, they want their careers to be more important than mine."

"I've had many a man ask me to quit so I can support him and be there for him all the time." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taraji takes Brad home to meet her pals

CO-WORKERS Taraji P. Henson was so starstruck by her The Curious Case of Benjamin Button co-star Brad Pitt she invited him home to meet all her friends, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress was convinced producers would turn her down for a role in the movie because they would want a "big celebrity" to appear alongside Pitt. She was shocked when she landed the part — and even more surprised to learn the Hollywood megastar is "just a regular guy." Henson tells USA Today newspaper, "Three of my very best girlfriends flew into town and wanted to meet Brad Pitt.

"So I was like, 'Brad, come over. My girlfriends are going crazy over you.' He comes over, and he's so cool. He has a way of being very warm and making people feel welcome."

The actress is currently enjoying the movie's success and she was rewarded with a best supporting actress nomination for her performance in the movie as Queenie who takes baby Benjamin in as she is unable to have children of her own. METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED

Cruise family heads to Disney World

FAMILY Hollywood royalty met Disney royalty at the Magic Kingdom over the weekend, people.com reports. On Saturday, Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes, kids Suri, two, and Connor, 14, and Holmes' parents visited the Walt Disney World theme park, where they met princesses Cinderella, Snow White and Aurora (a.k.a. Sleeping Beauty) at the Once Upon a Time Breakfast at Cinderella's Royal Table restaurant. "Suri was wearing a yellow dress like Belle from Beauty and the Beast," says a fellow diner. The family slipped into the restaurant relatively unnoticed as the princesses were being introduced to the crowd. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JAMES DEVANEY/WIREIMAGE

Rourke says his dogs were there for him 'when no one else was'

FRIENDS Mickey Rourke, who thanked his dogs during his Golden Globes best actor acceptance speech, says his pooches received a shout-out for one simple reason: They were there for him during his darkest hour more than a decade ago, people.com reports.

"I sort of self-destructed and everything came out about fourteen years ago or so ... the wife had left, the career was over, the money was not an ounce," Rourke, 56, reveals during the Oscar night edition of The Barbara Walters Special, of which People has an exclusive preview.

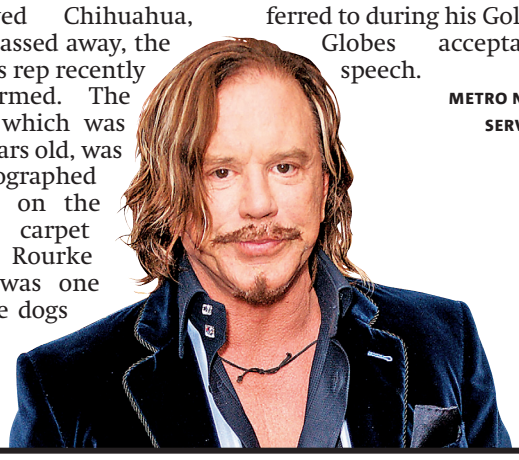
"The dogs were there when no one else was there."

But the star of The Wrestler says his split from ex-wife, actress-model Carre Otis, 40, further exacerbated his personal turmoil.

"What happened was, I was not in a really good place in my head and my heart, and I think when the wife left, it all came down and I didn't want to be here."

But when asked by Walters if, at the time, he was suicidal, Rourke said, "Look, there's always a weak way out. I've always known that. Yeah, I didn't want to be here, but I didn't want to kill myself. I just wanted to push a button and disappear."

Also, Loki, Rourke's beloved Chihuahua, has passed away, the actors rep recently confirmed. The dog, which was 18 years old, was photographed often on the red carpet with Rourke and was one of the dogs the actor referred to during his Golden Globes acceptance speech. METRO NEWS SERVICES

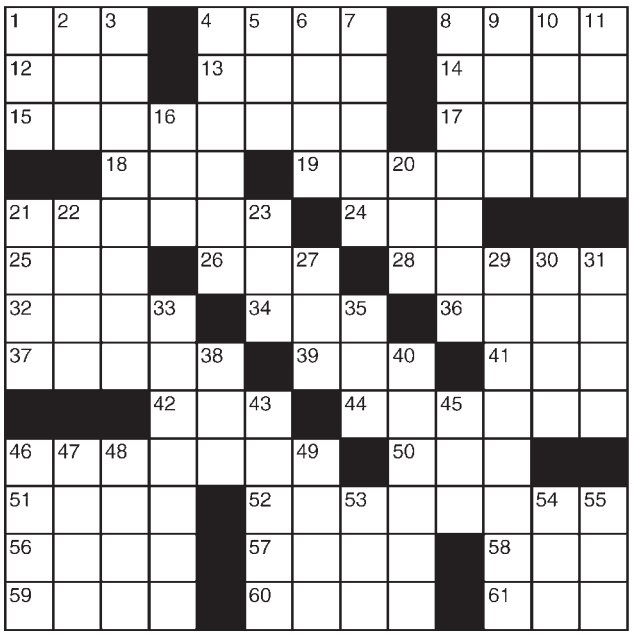


Today Partly sunny 1 C / -9 C
Friday Morning clouds 1 C / -10 C
Saturday Afternoon clouds 2 C / -7 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Ain't no more
4 Hand warmer
8 Supermarket supply
12 Request
13 Taj Mahal city
14 Send forth
15 Easy field goal
17 Competent
18 Sajak or Summerall
19 Middle kid, in a sitcom
21 Pen VIP
24 Author Buscaglia
25 "I" strain?
26 Wish otherwise
28 Further down the page
32 99 of the 101 Dalmatians
34 Playground game
36 Rebuff a masher
37 Choppers
39 Aries
41 Lemieux milieu
42 Have 44-Across
44 Evening meal
46 Big con
50 — de deux
51 PBS science show
52 Hidden trigger
56 Hebrew month
57 Green land
58 Margery of rhyme
59 Money
60 Encounter
61 CBS logo

Crossword down

1 Servicewoman
2 Blond shade
3 Do some pre-bout exercise
4 Get down
5 "Blecch!"
6 Gift-tag word
7 Deadly
8 Signal lights
9 Early pulpit
10 Underwater breathing apparatus?
11 Goblet part
16 Cushion
20 Mainlander's memento
21 Sobbed
22 Malaria symptom
23 Enthusiast
27 Corn spike
29 Opposite result
30 "The Amazing —"
31 Unoriginal one
33 The Daily Show host
35 Petrol
38 Meccan pilgrimage
40 Snuffleupagus, e.g.
43 Tribe emblem
45 Manhandle
46 Hosiery woe
47 Protuberance
48 Elliptical
49 Soft cheese
53 Rage
54 Comedian Romano
55 Flock member

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2		4	6				3	
				5				
				9	3			8
4		9			7	2		
1		8				7		4
		7	3			9		1
6			9	4				
				7				
	5				1	4		6

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	B	A	■	D	O	L	E	■	F	O	A	M		
G	U	N	■	O	V	I	D	■	E	U	R	O		
E	S	T	■	L	A	Z	A	R	E	T	T	O		
S	T	E	A	L	■	■	M	O	B	■	■	■		
■	■	■	N	A	B	S	■	B	L	U	S	H		
N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	■	E	S	A	U		
I	V	E	■	S	T	R	A	P	■	E	V	E		
S	E	T	S	■	H	A	Z	A	R	D	E	D		
I	R	A	Q	I	■	W	E	N	D	■	■	■		
■	■	■	U	T	E	■	■	O	A	S	I	S		
G	A	Z	A	S	T	R	I	P	■	O	B	I		
A	G	A	R	■	N	U	L	L	■	F	I	T		
D	O	P	E	■	A	B	L	Y	■	A	S	S		

7	3	9	4	8	2	6	5	1
8	6	4	5	1	3	9	7	2
5	1	2	6	7	9	8	3	4
4	7	8	3	9	1	2	6	5
1	9	6	7	2	5	4	8	3
2	5	3	8	4	6	1	9	7
9	8	1	2	5	7	3	4	6
3	4	5	1	6	8	7	2	9
6	2	7	9	3	4	5	1	8

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Italian Braised Beef with Garlic and Mushrooms

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 cup (125 ml) dried porcini mushrooms (1/2 ounce)
1 cup (250 ml) hot water
1 cup (250 ml) canned crushed tomatoes
1 cup (250 ml) dry red wine or chicken broth
2 tbsp (25 ml) tomato paste
3 carrots, cut into matchsticks
2 celery stalks, cut into matchsticks
4 garlic cloves, slivered
4 tsp (20 ml)brown sugar
3/4 teaspoon oregano
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 tsp (2 ml) black pepper
1 lb (500 g) well-trimmed boneless beef eye round roast

METHOD:
1. Combine mushrooms and hot water in small bowl. Let stand 20 minutes until softened. With fingers, scoop mushrooms out of liquid. Strain mushroom soaking liquid through fine-meshed sieve and set aside. Coarsely chop mushrooms.
2. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Combine mushrooms, mushroom soaking liquid, tomatoes, wine, tomato paste, carrots, celery, garlic, brown sugar, oregano, salt, and black pepper in Dutch oven or flameproof casserole. Bring to a boil over medium heat.
3. Add meat to pan and return to a boil. Cover, place in oven, and bake until meat is tender, about 1-1/2 hours.
4. Slice meat and serve with vegetables and sauce. (Recipe can be made ahead. Add sliced meat to pan of sauce and vegetables and refrigerate. Reheat in 250 F/120 C oven).

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your energy inspires others to get out of a rut. You'll pull off any last-minute plans with ease. You have the courage to speak the truth.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Your conscience is tugged after witnessing an injustice. Sometimes you just can't help other people. The best policy is to let sleeping dogs lie.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Someone tells you something you want to know. A trustworthy person discovers a personal weakness. Regrets will cause a friend to confess.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Discuss an agreement with a stable friend. Self-hypnosis will work for you. An optimistic woman wants you to change your habits.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Tension crops up when someone is caught lying. Someone will bring out your wild side. Prepare to coach a besieged person through a crisis.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You'll get support for a planned venture. A quiet approach enhances your hard work. Someone's integrity is at stake in a wild love affair.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll get more happiness from telling the truth. A wicked woman has something to say about damages. Your passions must be controlled for now.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't let other people's fears scare you into making a mistake. You'll have to defend a reliable friend. Mind your manners and don't be bitter.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You don't expect to be told what to do. Your talents lead you to better things. Pay attention to any doubts about a tempting fantasy.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Your affection causes weird reactions. Ridiculous outrage will break out over a lost item. Strengthen others by sharing your deep thoughts.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
An ally denies revealing his character flaws. Your brilliant ideas push the power of invention to new heights. A social event seems to be silly.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Be a minimalist with your plans. A fierce person insists on deadlines being met. You must spend time with someone if you want to bond.

This day in history

FEB. 19, 1878: The phonograph is patented by Thomas Edison.
FEB. 19, 1945: World War II: Battle of Iwo Jima — about 30,000 U.S. Marines land on Iwo Jima.
FEB. 19, 1985: Artificial heart recipient William J. Schroeder becomes the first such patient to leave hospital.
FEB. 19, 1988: The Winter Olympics are held in Calgary.
FEB. 19, 2002: NASA's Mars Odyssey space probe begins to map the surface of Mars using its thermal emission imaging system.
FEB 19, 2008: Fidel Castro announces that he will resign as President of Cuba.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Small lie about a tot's highchair wear (1)
2. Bloke's AAA handouts for routes (1)
3. Stupid Clue game Professor (1)
4. Exerciser LaLanne's floor coat (1)
5. Insect stage wonder to behold (2)
6. Broom riders' wall recesses (2)
7. Pleasure boat captain's frogman's footgear (2)

ANSWERS
1. BIB FIB 2. CHAPS MAPS 3. DUMB PLUM 4. JACKS WAX
5. LARVAL MARVEL 6. WITCHES NICHES 7. SKIPPERS FLIPPERS

2-19-09

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CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

The Government of Canada's proposed Economic Action Plan contains new tax measures that may benefit you.

If you're a homeowner, or are planning to become a homeowner, the Action Plan can help.

Support for home renovations

✓ For a limited time, the new *Home Renovation Tax Credit* means homeowners could receive up to $1,350 in tax relief on renovation expenses

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Canada's Economic Action Plan

www.actionplan.gc.ca

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Canada